US009154605B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Stovicek et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,154,605 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Oct. 6, 2015**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POSTING DATA TO A PLURALITY OF ACCOUNTS**

(75) Inventors: **Thomas Jan Stovicek**, Redwood City, CA (US); **Henry Yao-Tsu Chen**, Waterloo (CA); **Andrew Philip Cundill**, Ottawa (CA)

(73) Assignee: **BlackBerry Limited**, Waterloo, Ontario (CA)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04M 1/725	(2006.01)
G06Q 10/10	(2012.01)
G06Q 50/00	(2012.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***H04M 1/72547*** (2013.01); ***G06Q 10/10*** (2013.01); ***G06Q 50/01*** (2013.01); *G06F 3/0482* (2013.01); *G06F 3/04817* (2013.01); *G06F 3/04842* (2013.01); *H04L 12/5895* (2013.01); *H04L 65/403* (2013.01); *H04L 67/26* (2013.01); *H04M 1/72583* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC . H04L 65/403; G06F 3/0482; G06F 3/04842; G06F 3/04817

USPC 715/751–753

See application file for complete search history.

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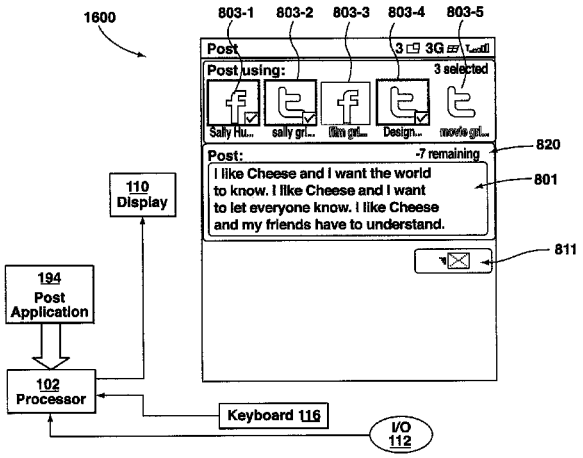
Primary Examiner — Tuyetlien Tran

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Fish & Richardson P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present specification provides a method, system and apparatus for posting data to a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers. A display is controlled to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts. The display is controlled to generate icons, associated with the plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, the icons provided adjacent to the message region, each icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture. Icons are selected and the display is controlled to provide an indicator of selection at each of the selected icons. Message data is transmitted to each of the plurality of accounts associated with each of the icons which are selected via the communication subsystem.

24 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets



(51) **Int. Cl.**

H04L 29/06	(2006.01)
G06F 3/0481	(2013.01)
G06F 3/0484	(2013.01)
G06F 3/0482	(2013.01)
H04L 12/58	(2006.01)
H04L 29/08	(2006.01)

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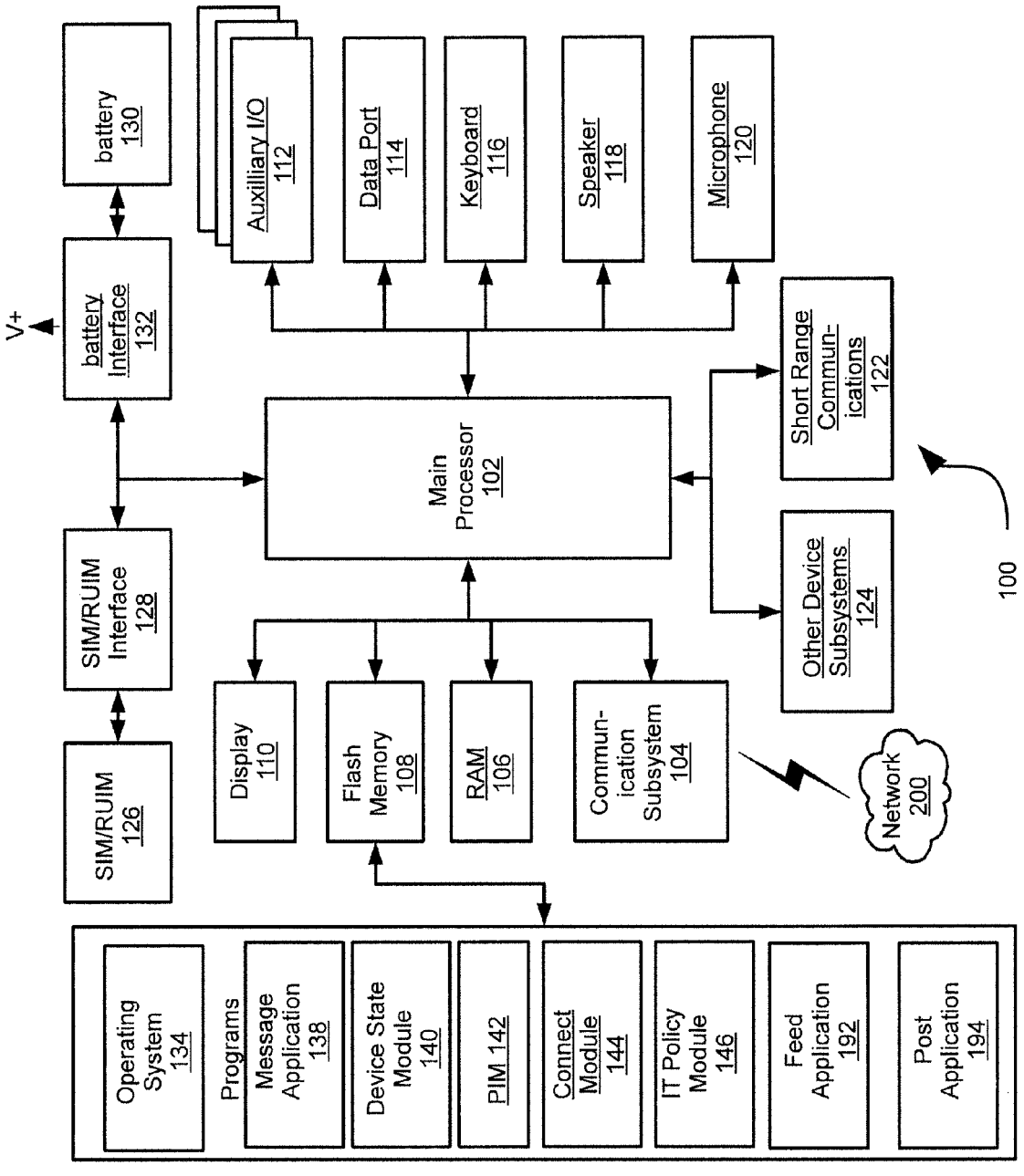

battery 130
battery Interface 132
V+
SIM/RUIM Interface 128
SIM/RUIM 126
Auxilliary I/O 112
Data Port 114
Keyboard 116
Speaker 118
Microphone 120
Main Processor 102
Short Range Commun-ications 122
Other Device Subsystems 124
Display 110
Flash Memory 108
RAM 106
Commun-ication Subsystem 104
Network 200
100
Operating System 134
Programs
Message Application 138
Device State Module 140
PIM 142
Connect Module 144
IT Policy Module 146
Feed Application 192
Post Application 194

Fig. 1

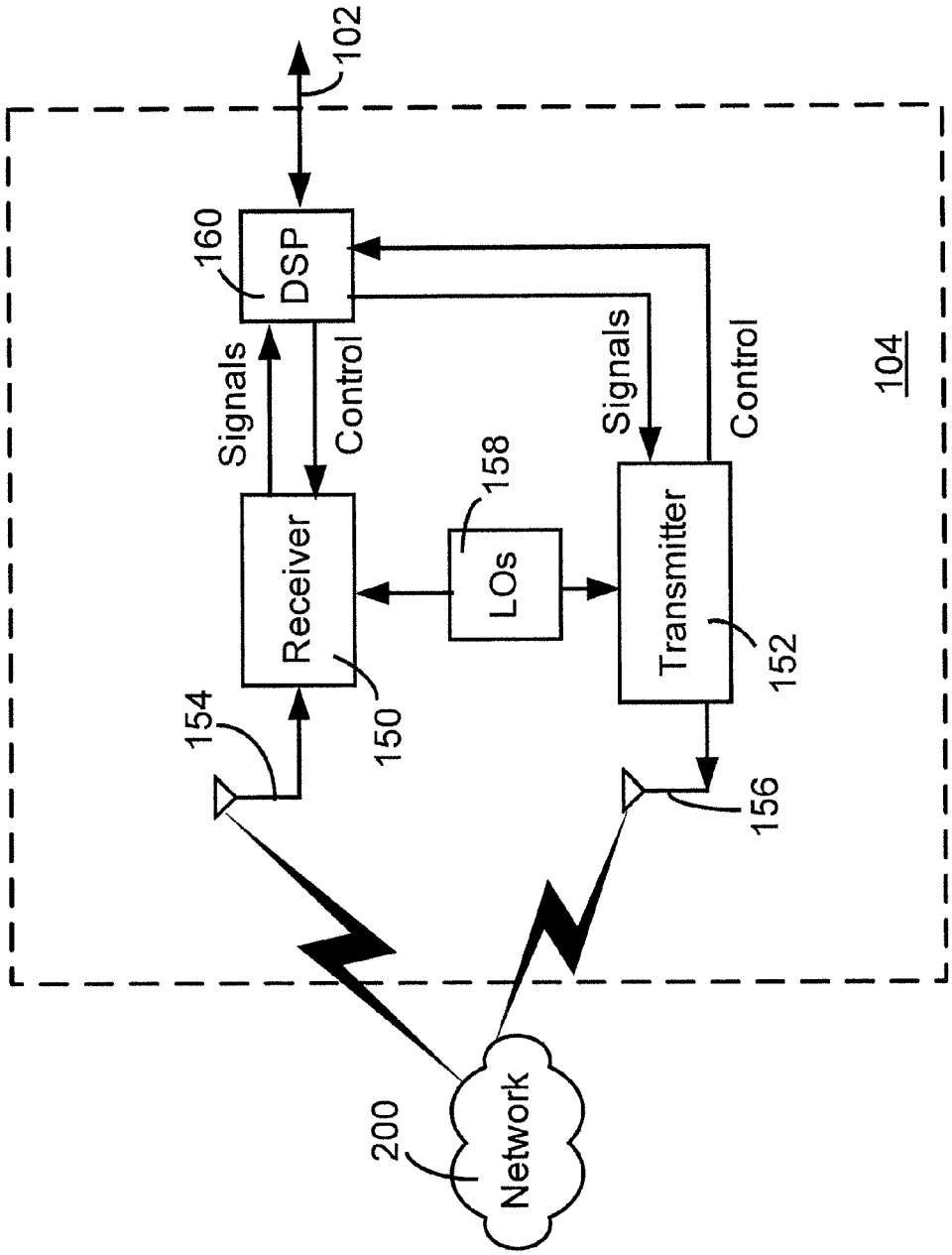

102
160
DSP
Signals
Control
Signals
Control
104
158
Receiver
LOs
Transmitter
154
150
152
156
200
Network

Fig. 2

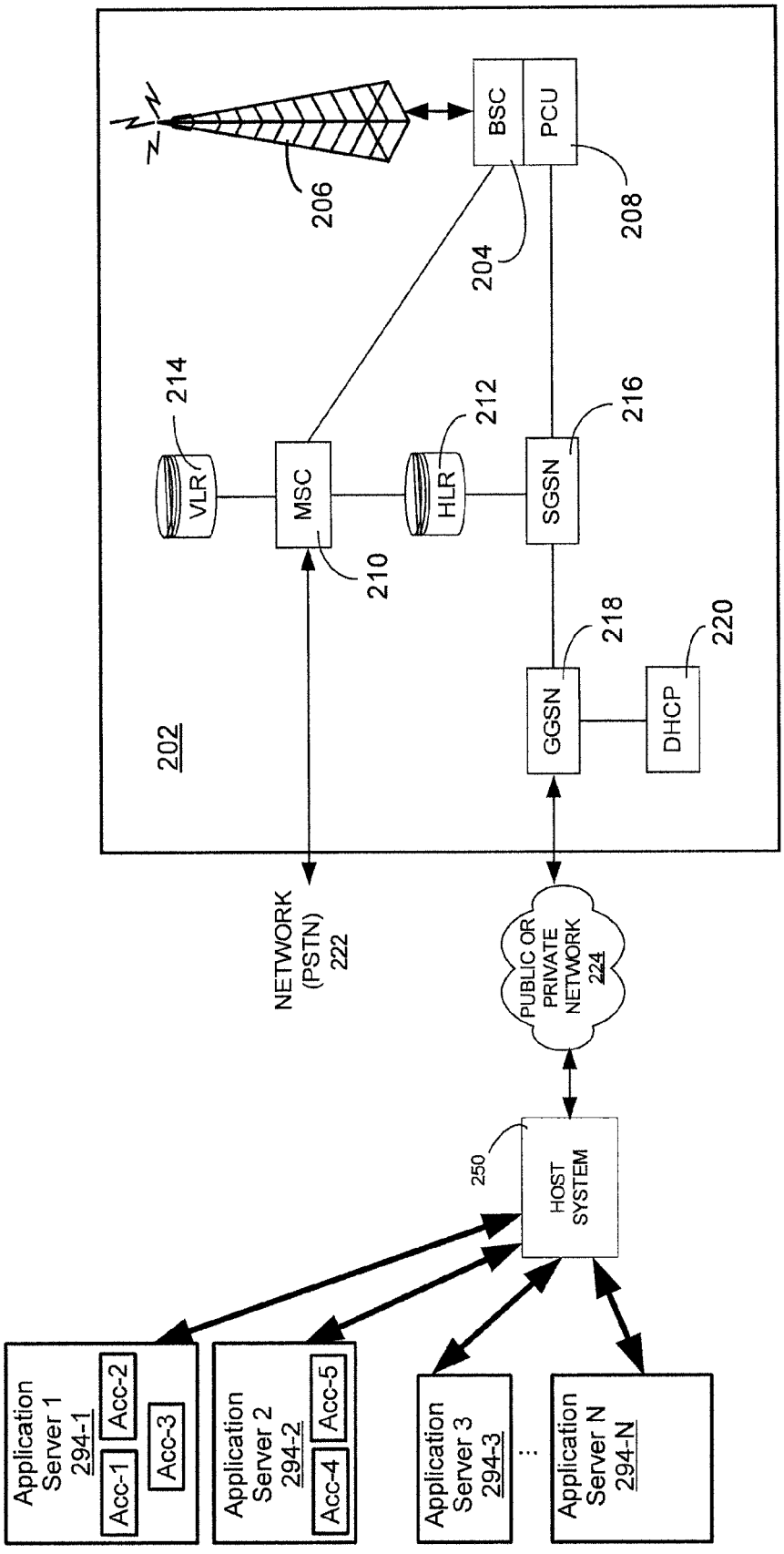

202
206
BSC
PCU
204
208
214
VLR
MSC
210
212
HLR
SGSN
216
218
GGSN
DHCP
220
NETWORK (PSTN) 222
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NETWORK 224
250
HOST SYSTEM
Application Server 1 294-1
Acc-1
Acc-2
Acc-3
Application Server 2 294-2
Acc-4
Acc-5
Application Server 3 294-3
Application Server N 294-N

Fig. 3

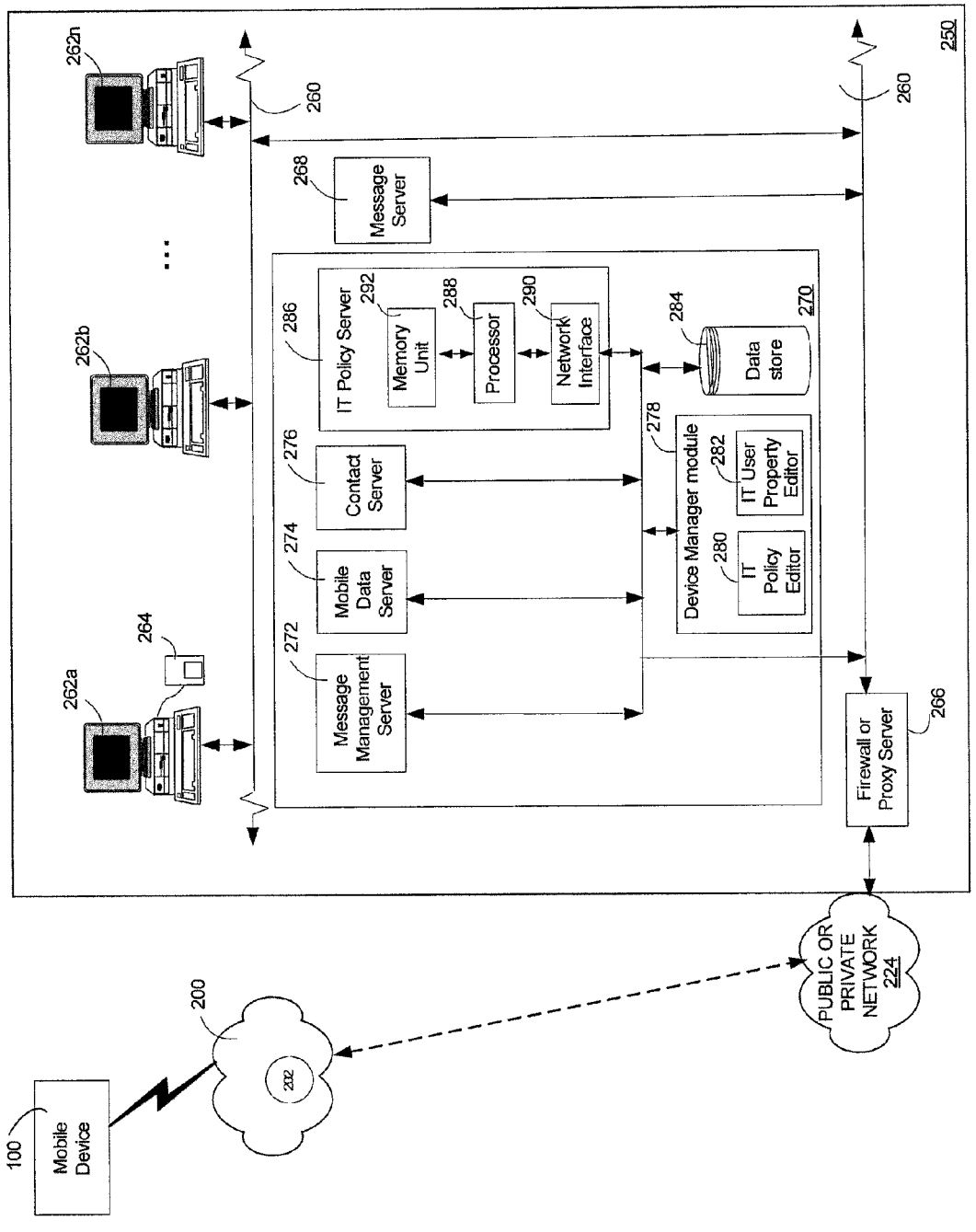
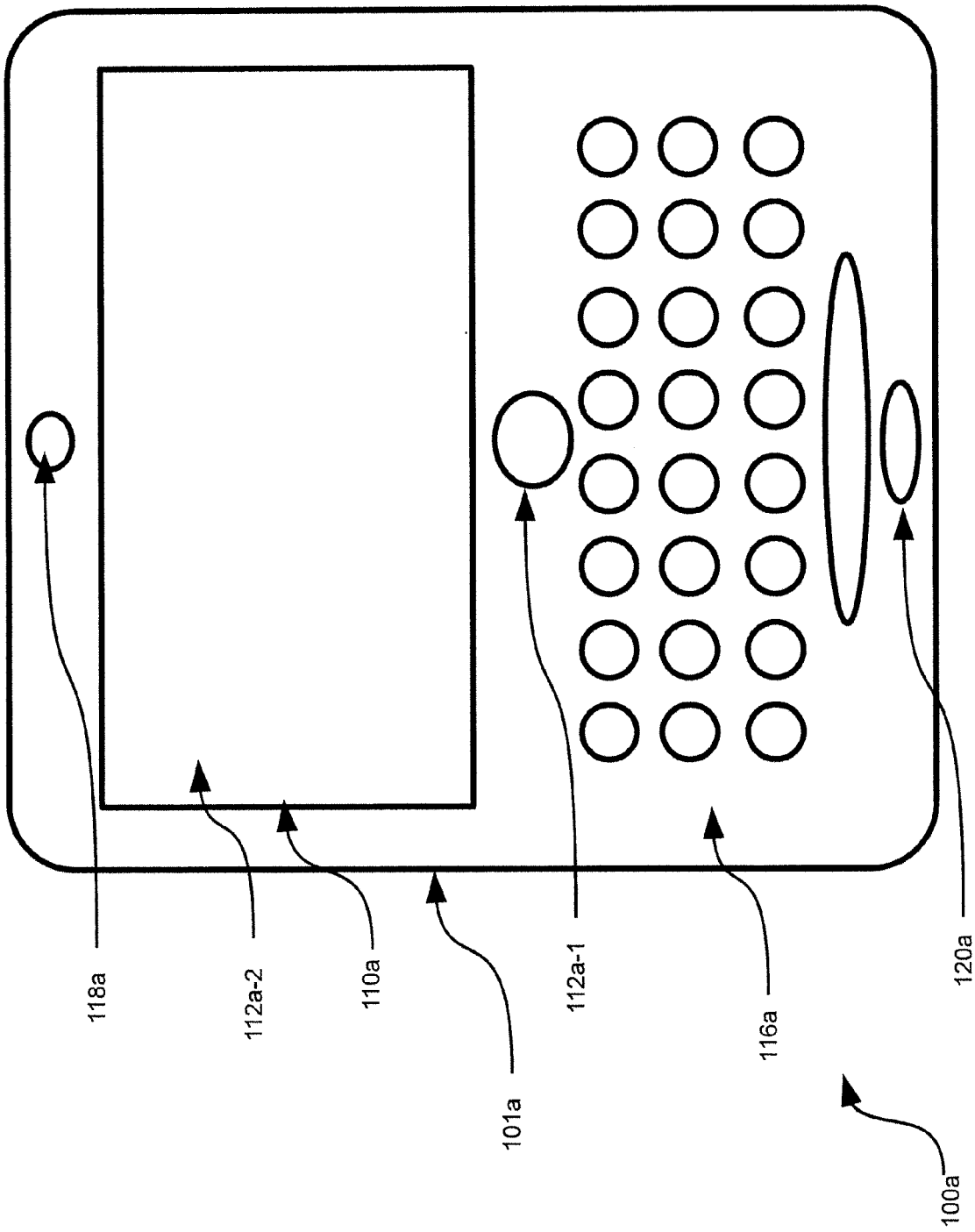

100
Mobile Device
200
202
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NETWORK 224
250
260
262a
262b
262n
264
266
Firewall or Proxy Server
268
Message Server
270
Data store
272
Message Management Server
274
Mobile Data Server
276
Contact Server
278
Device Manager module
280
IT Policy Editor
282
IT User Property Editor
284
286
IT Policy Server
288
Processor
290
Network Interface
292
Memory Unit

Fig. 4

Fig. 5



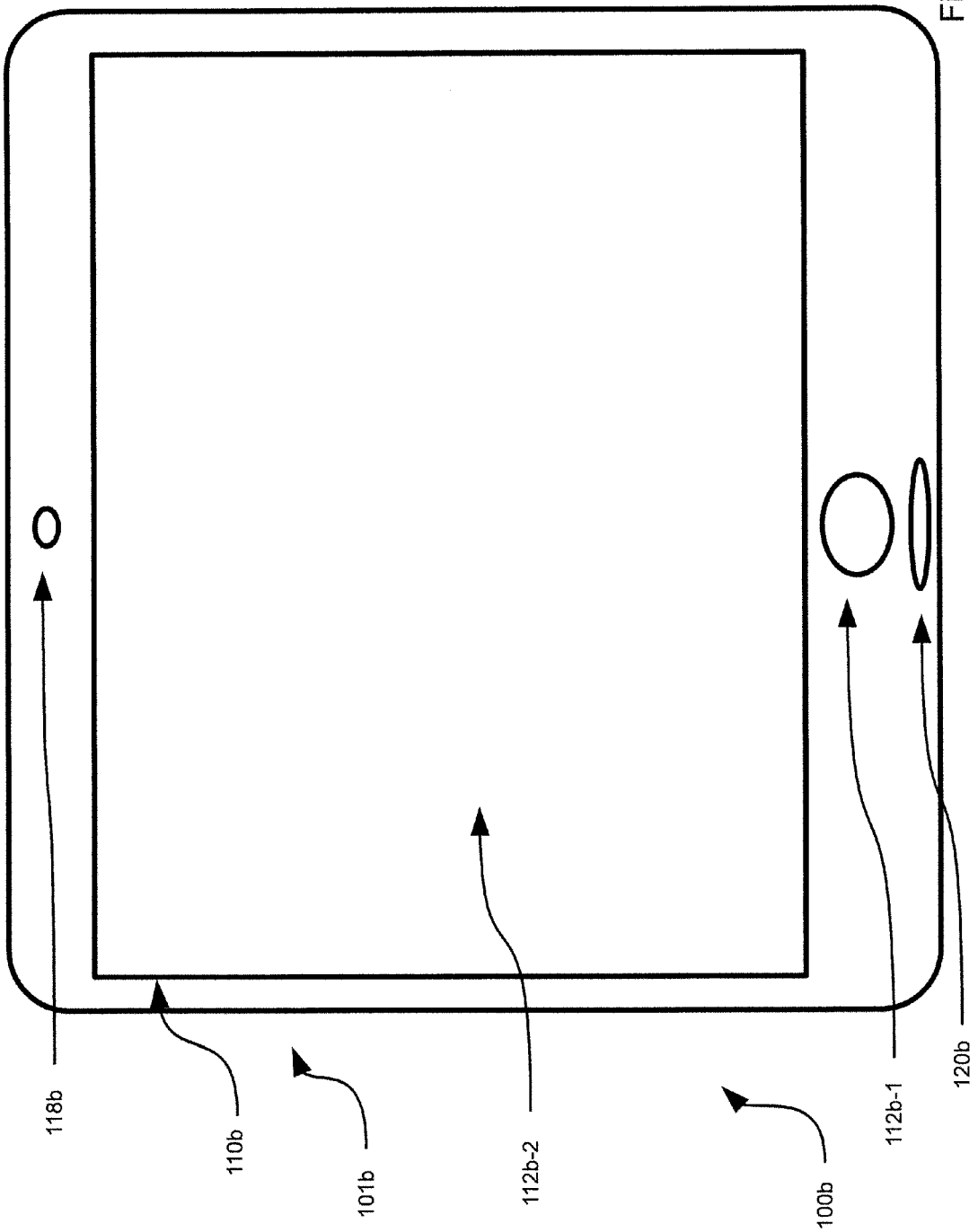


Fig. 6

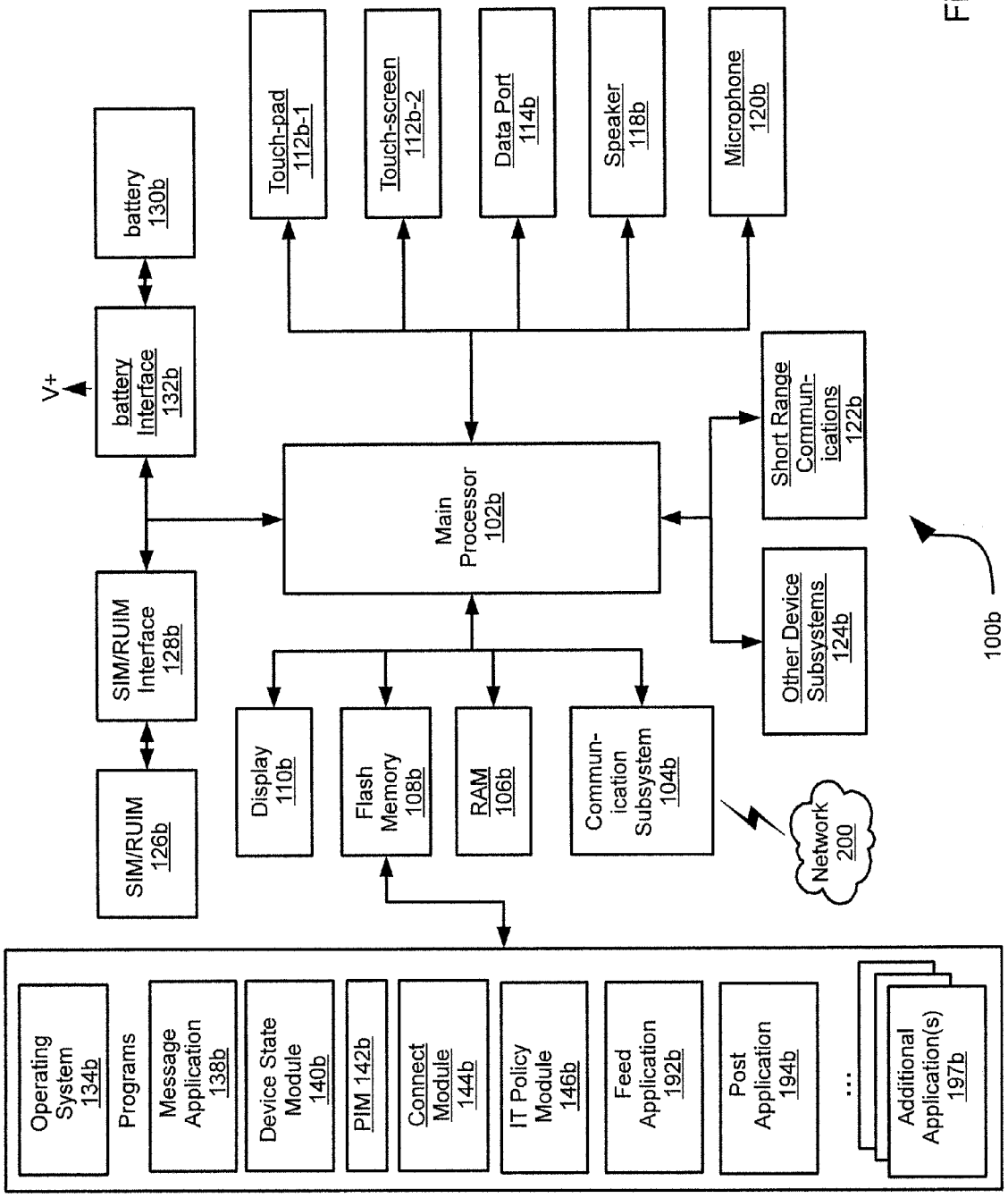

Touch-pad 112b-1
Touch-screen 112b-2
Data Port 114b
Speaker 118b
Microphone 120b
battery 130b
battery Interface 132b
V+
Main Processor 102b
Short Range Commun-ications 122b
Other Device Subsystems 124b
SIM/RUIM Interface 128b
SIM/RUIM 126b
Display 110b
Flash Memory 108b
RAM 106b
Commun-ication Subsystem 104b
Network 200
100b
Operating System 134b
Programs
Message Application 138b
Device State Module 140b
PIM 142b
Connect Module 144b
IT Policy Module 146b
Feed Application 192b
Post Application 194b
...
Additional Application(s) 197b

Fig. 7

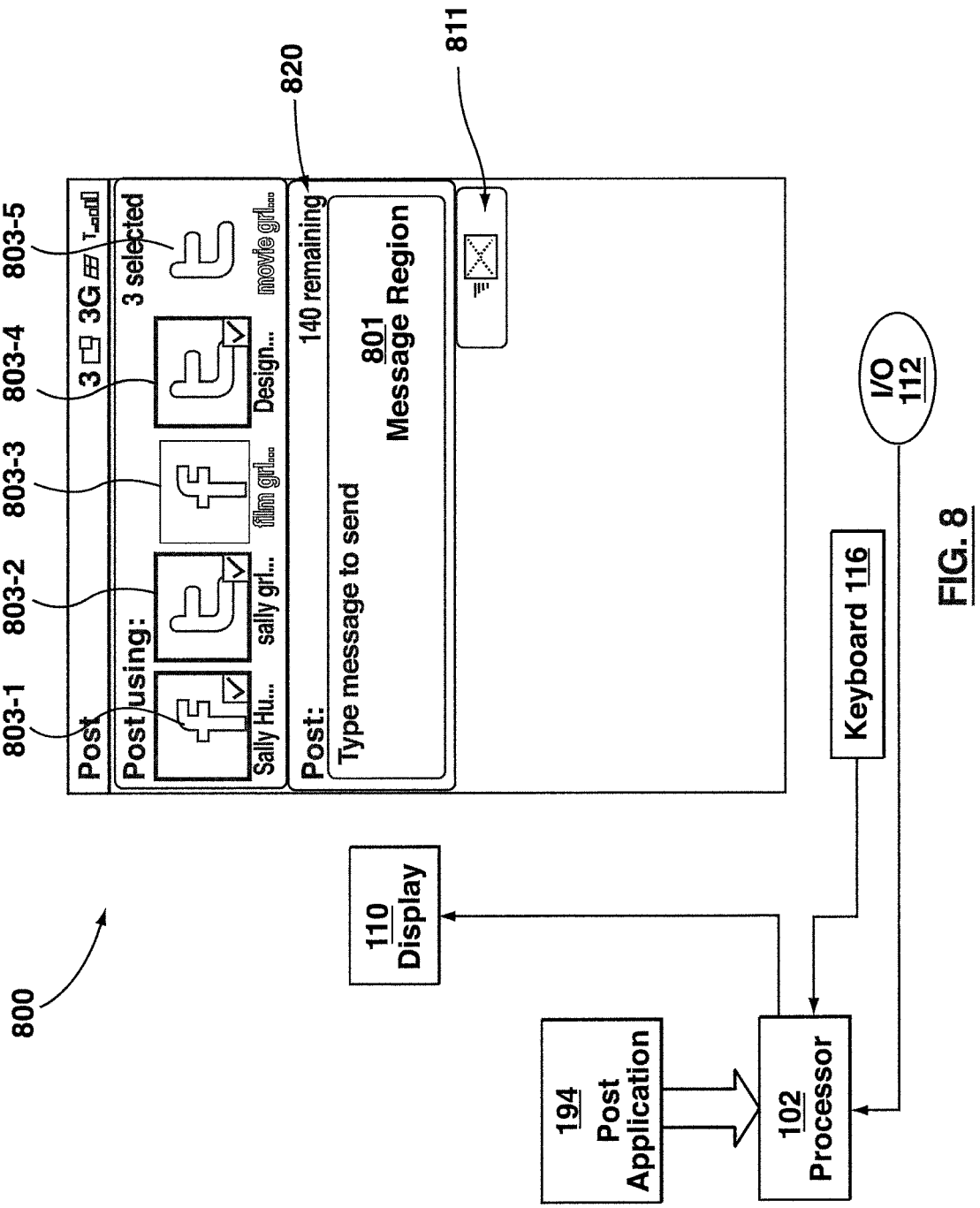

800
803-1
803-2
803-3
803-4
803-5
820
811
Post
Post using:
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
3 selected
3 3G
Post:
140 remaining
Type message to send
801
Message Region
110
Display
194
Post
Application
102
Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O
112

FIG. 8

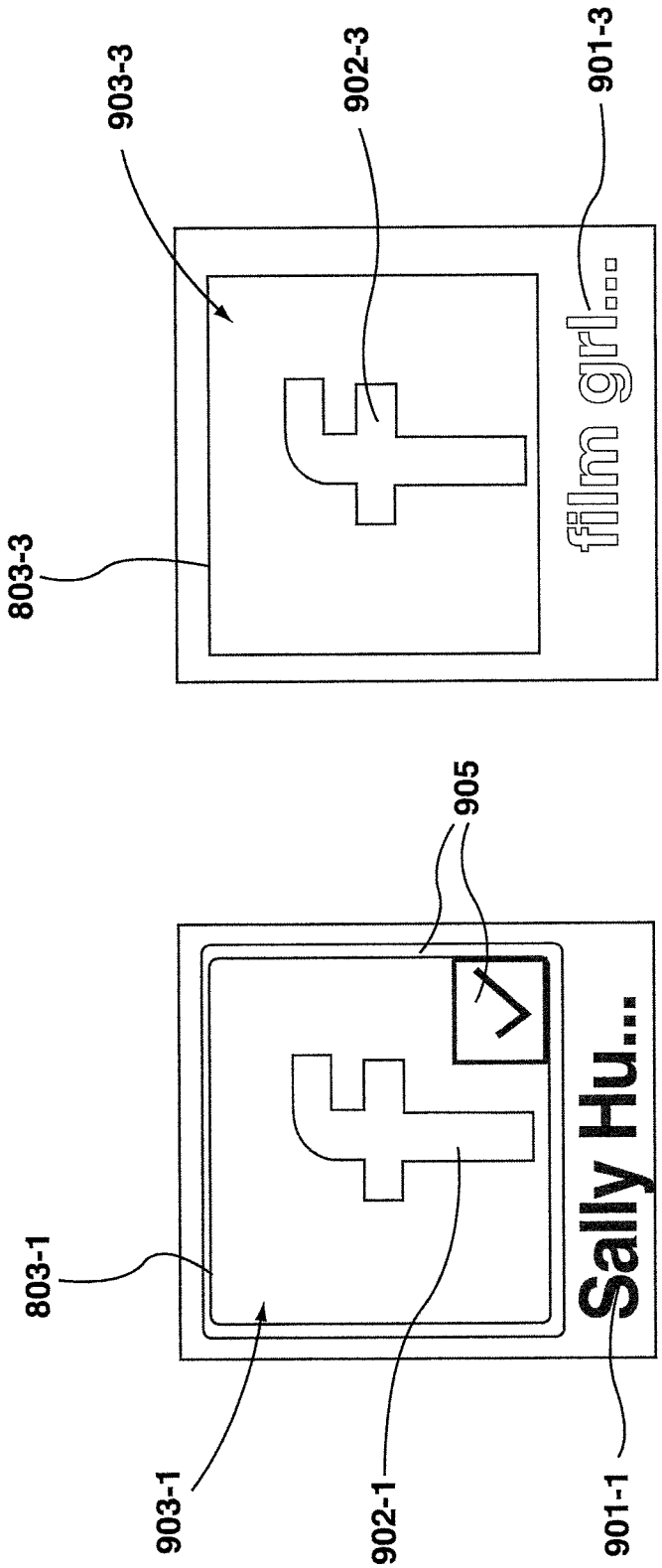


FIG. 9

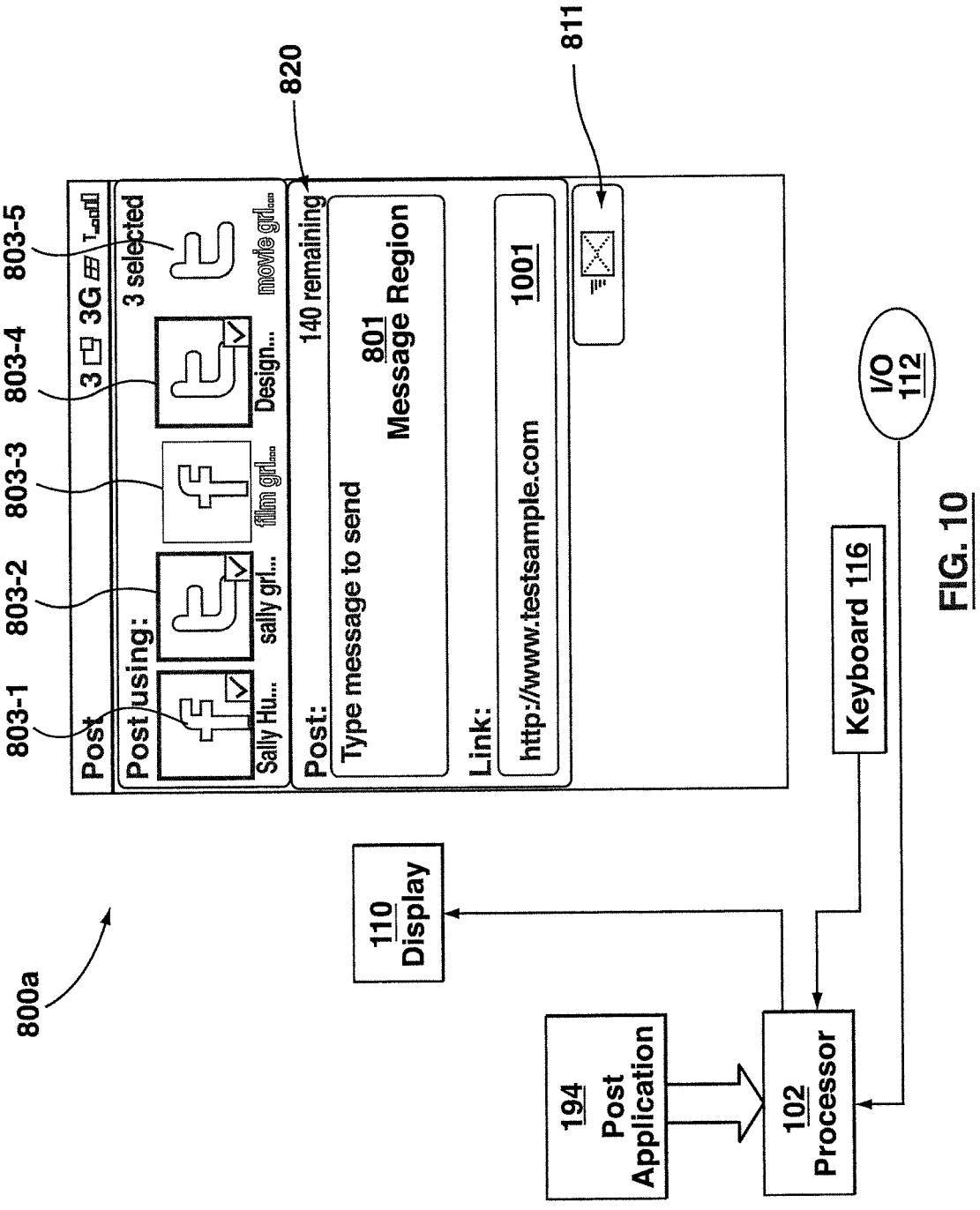

800a
110 Display
194 Post Application
102 Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O 112
Post
Post using:
3 selected
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
803-1
803-2
803-3
803-4
803-5
820
811
140 remaining
Post:
Type message to send
801 Message Region
Link:
http://www.testsample.com
1001

FIG. 10

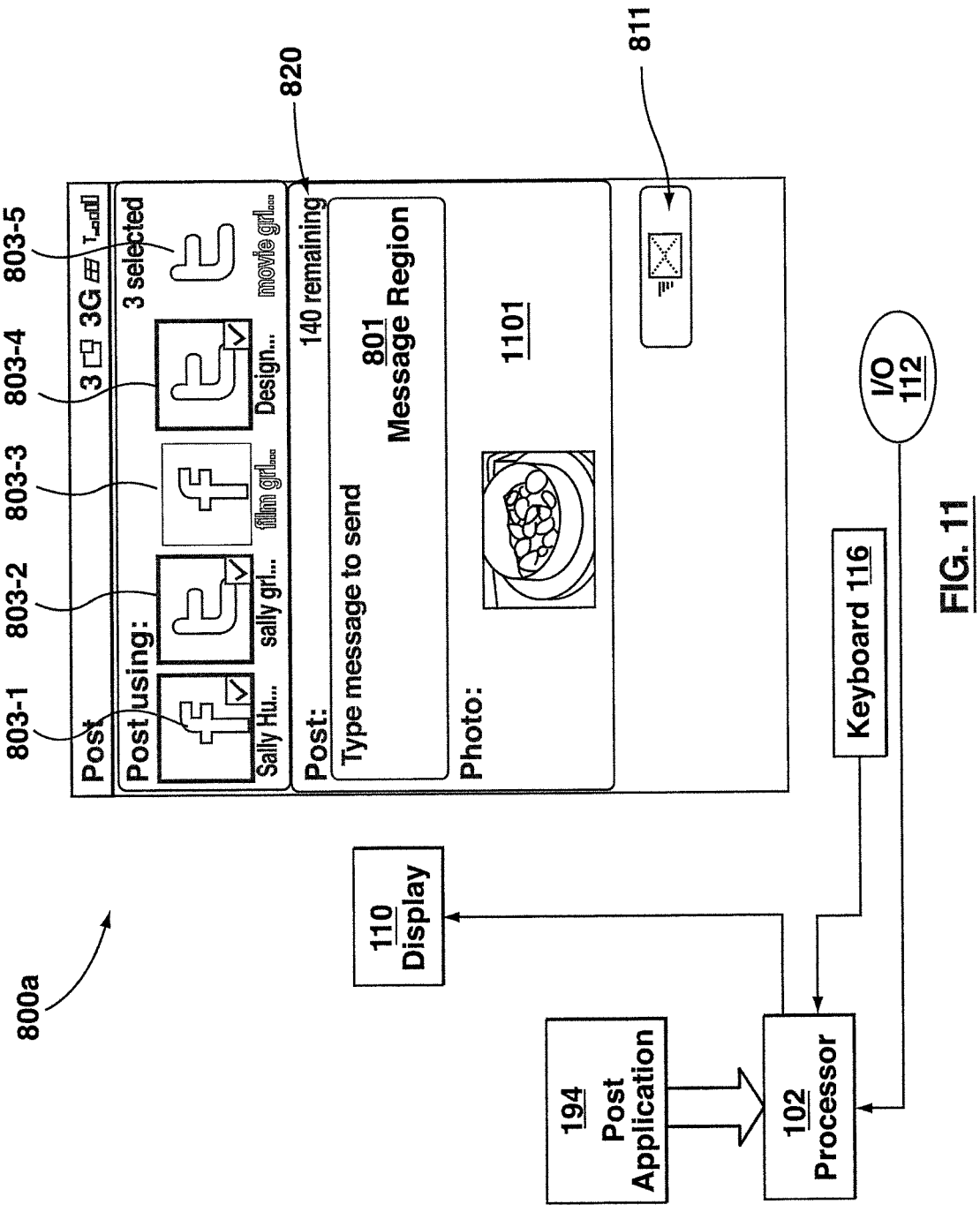

800a
803-1
803-2
803-3
803-4
803-5
820
811
Post
Post using:
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
3 selected
140 remaining
Post:
Type message to send
801
Message Region
Photo:
1101
110
Display
194
Post
Application
102
Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O
112

FIG. 11

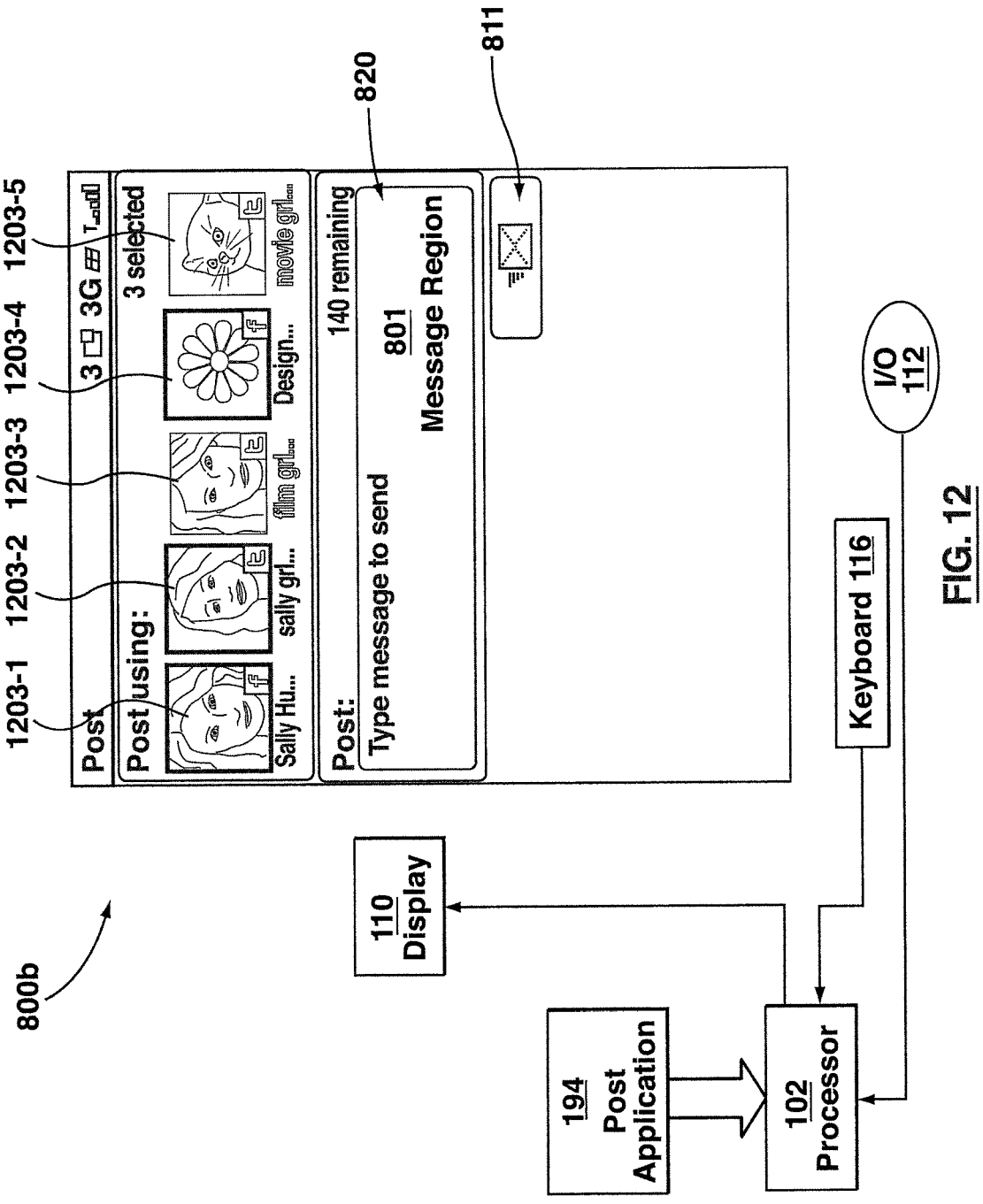

800b
Post
Post using:
3 selected
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
1203-1
1203-2
1203-3
1203-4
1203-5
Post:
Type message to send
140 remaining
801
Message Region
820
811
110
Display
194
Post
Application
102
Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O
112

FIG. 12

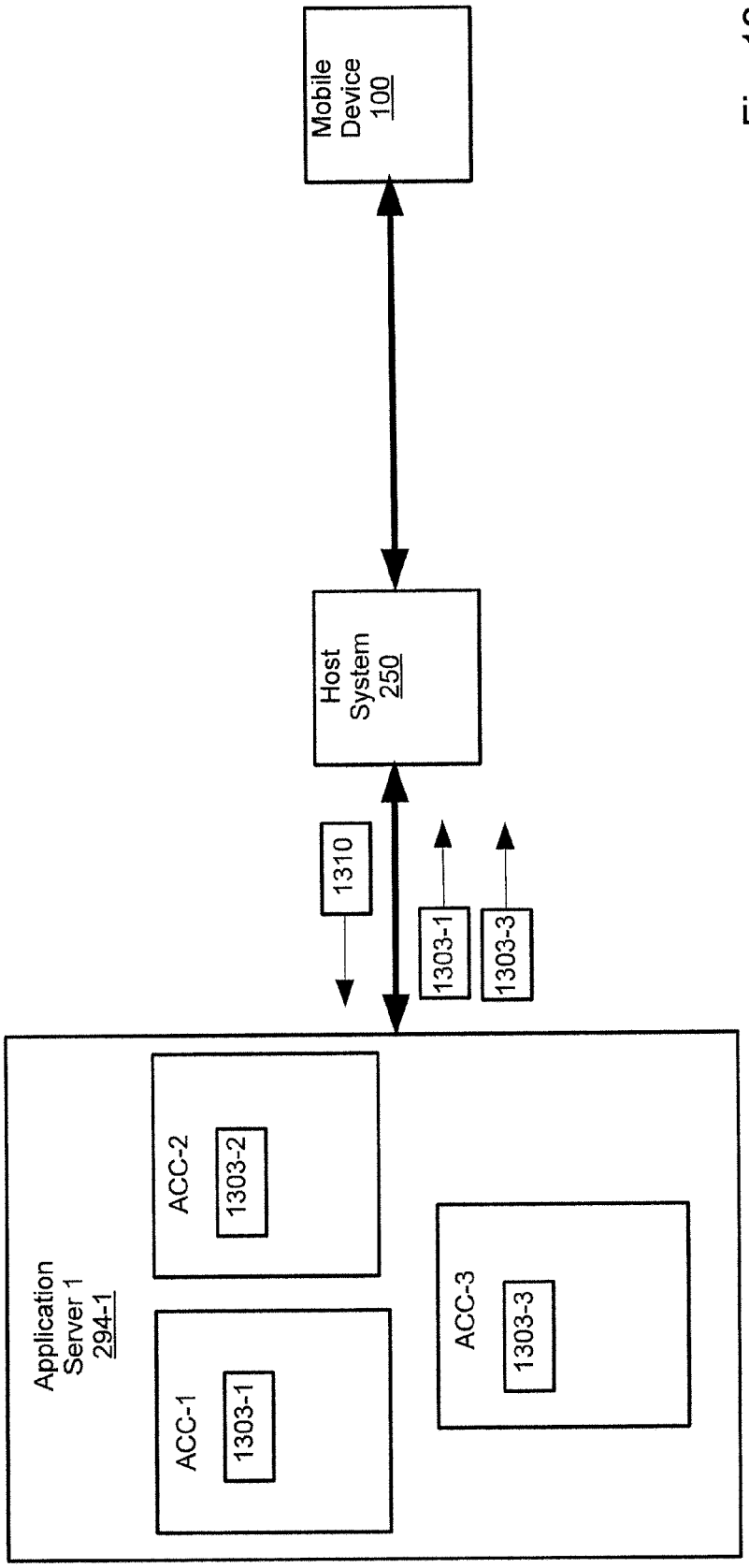

Mobile Device 100
Host System 250
1310
1303-1
1303-3
Application Server 1 294-1
ACC-1
1303-1
ACC-2
1303-2
ACC-3
1303-3

Fig. 13

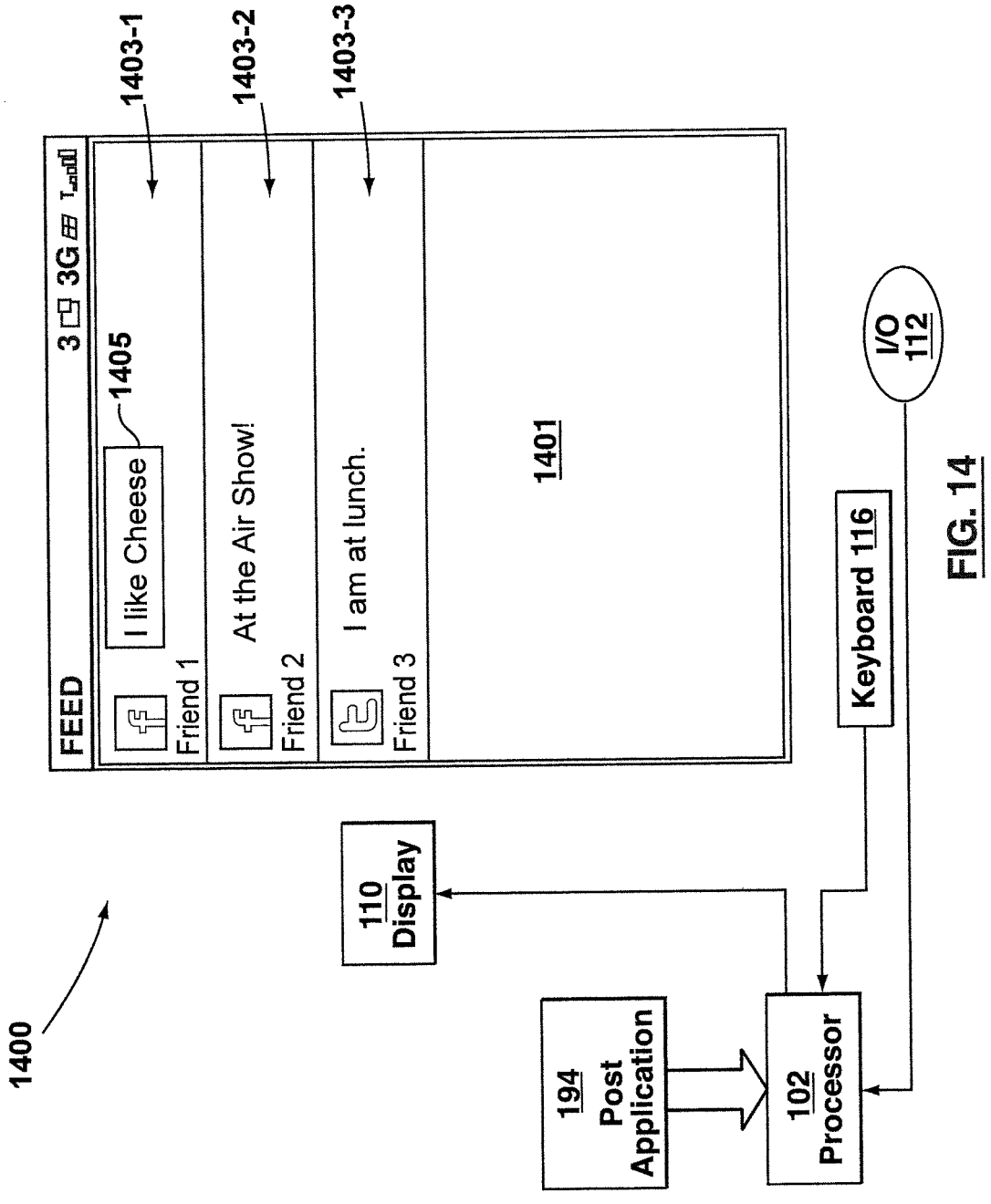

1400
FEED
3 3G
1403-1
1403-2
1403-3
1405
I like Cheese
Friend 1
At the Air Show!
Friend 2
I am at lunch.
Friend 3
1401
110 Display
194 Post Application
102 Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O 112

FIG. 14

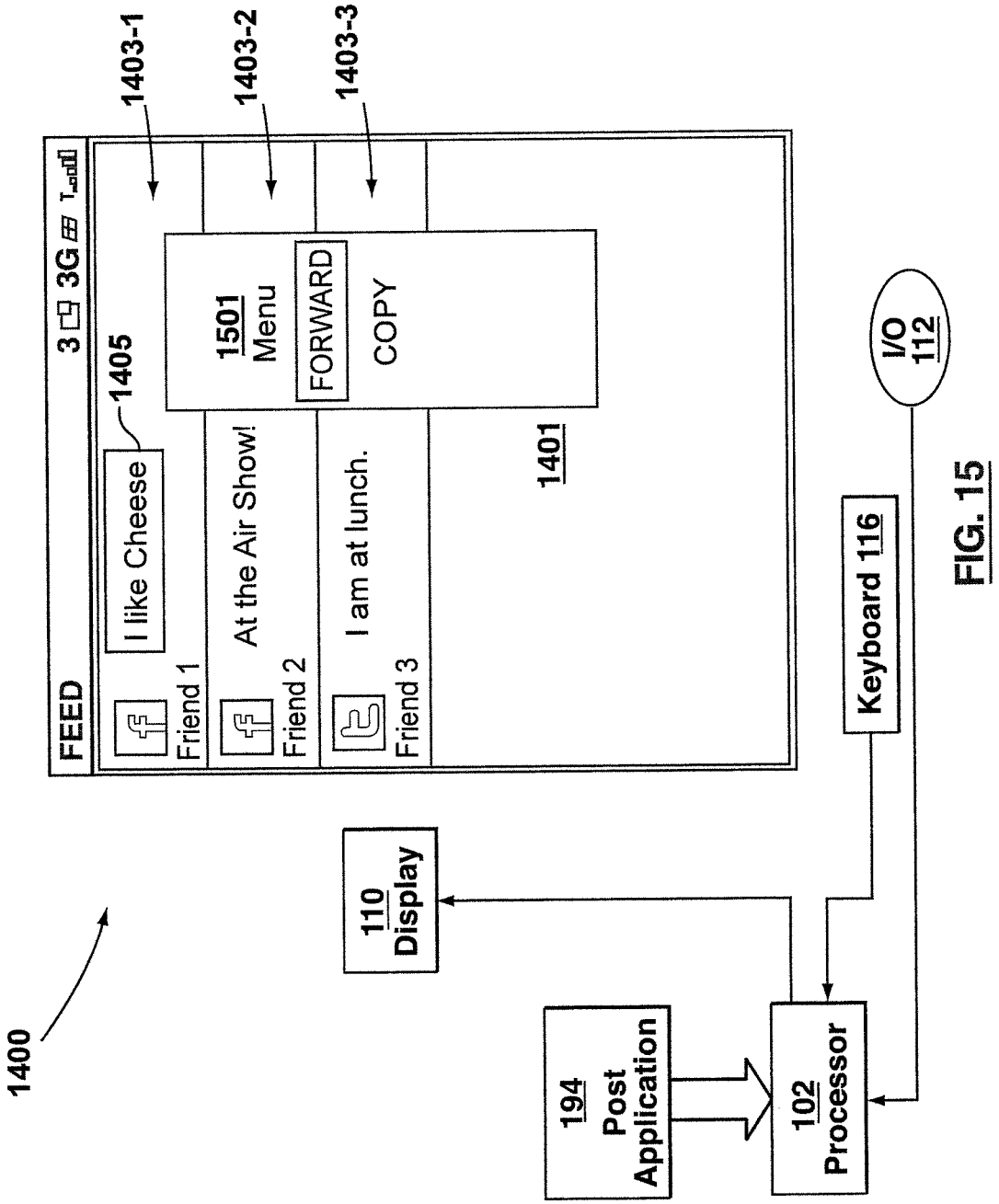

1400
FEED
3 3G
1403-1
1403-2
1403-3
1405
I like Cheese
Friend 1
At the Air Show!
Friend 2
I am at lunch.
Friend 3
1501 Menu
FORWARD
COPY
1401
110 Display
194 Post Application
102 Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O 112

FIG. 15

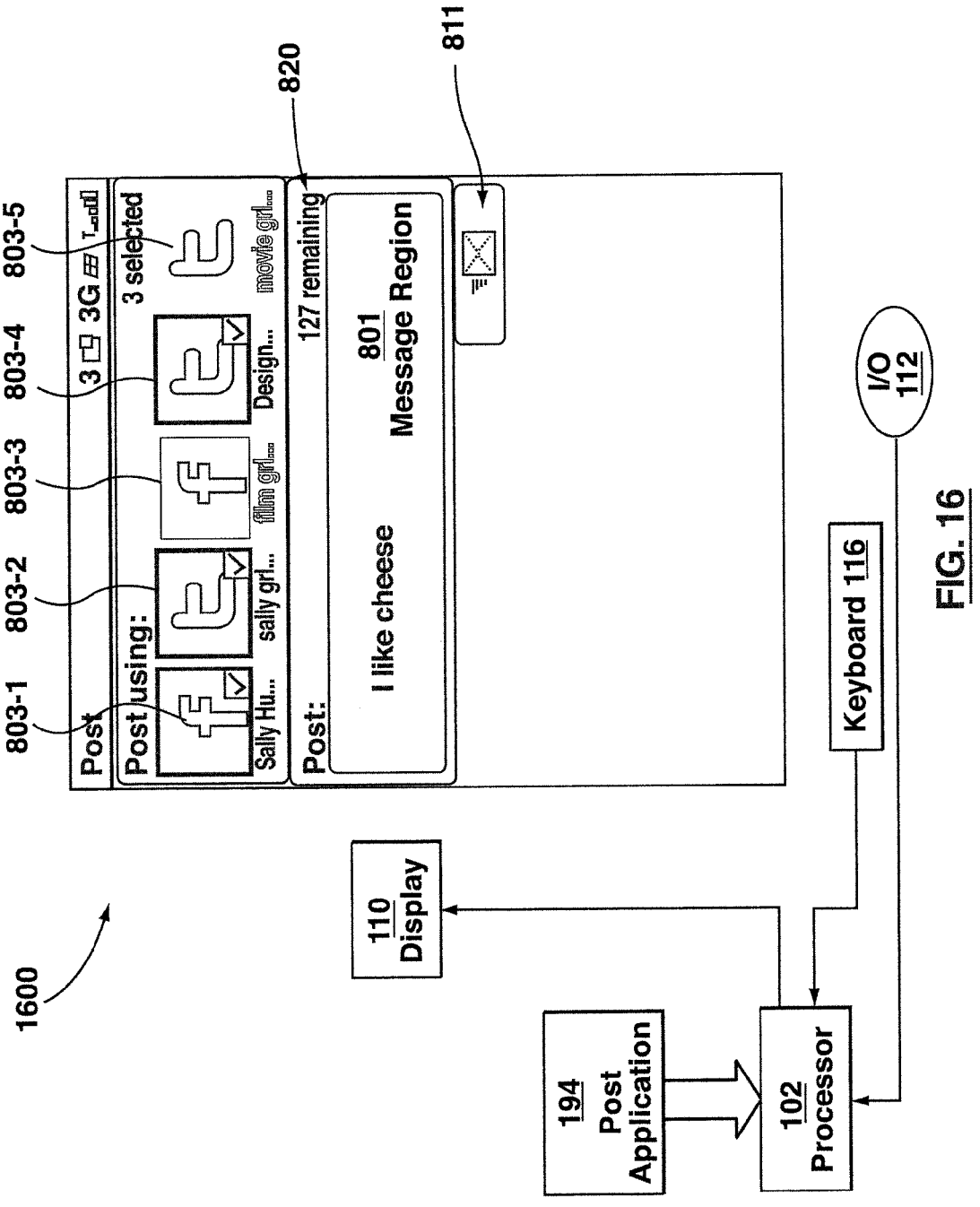

1600
803-1
803-2
803-3
803-4
803-5
820
811
Post
Post using:
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
3 selected
3 G
Post:
127 remaining
I like cheese
801
Message Region
110
Display
194
Post
Application
102
Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O
112

FIG. 16

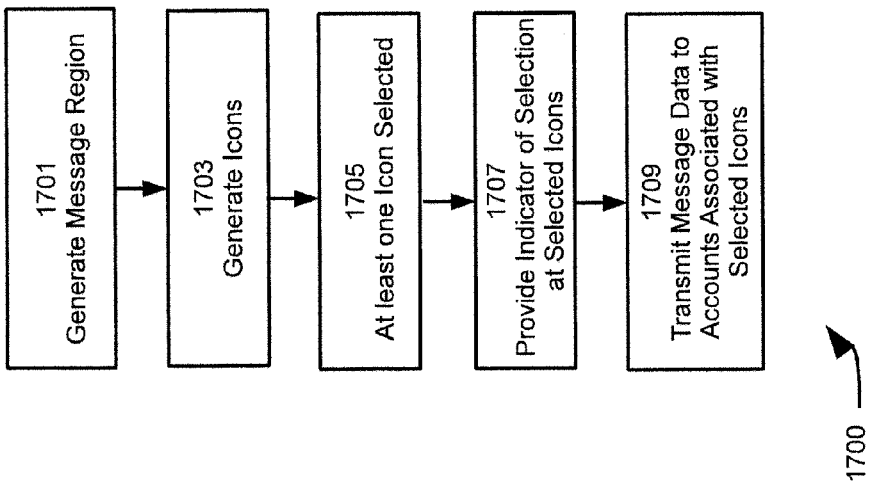

1701
Generate Message Region
1703
Generate Icons
1705
At least one Icon Selected
1707
Provide Indicator of Selection at Selected Icons
1709
Transmit Message Data to Accounts Associated with Selected Icons
1700

Fig. 17

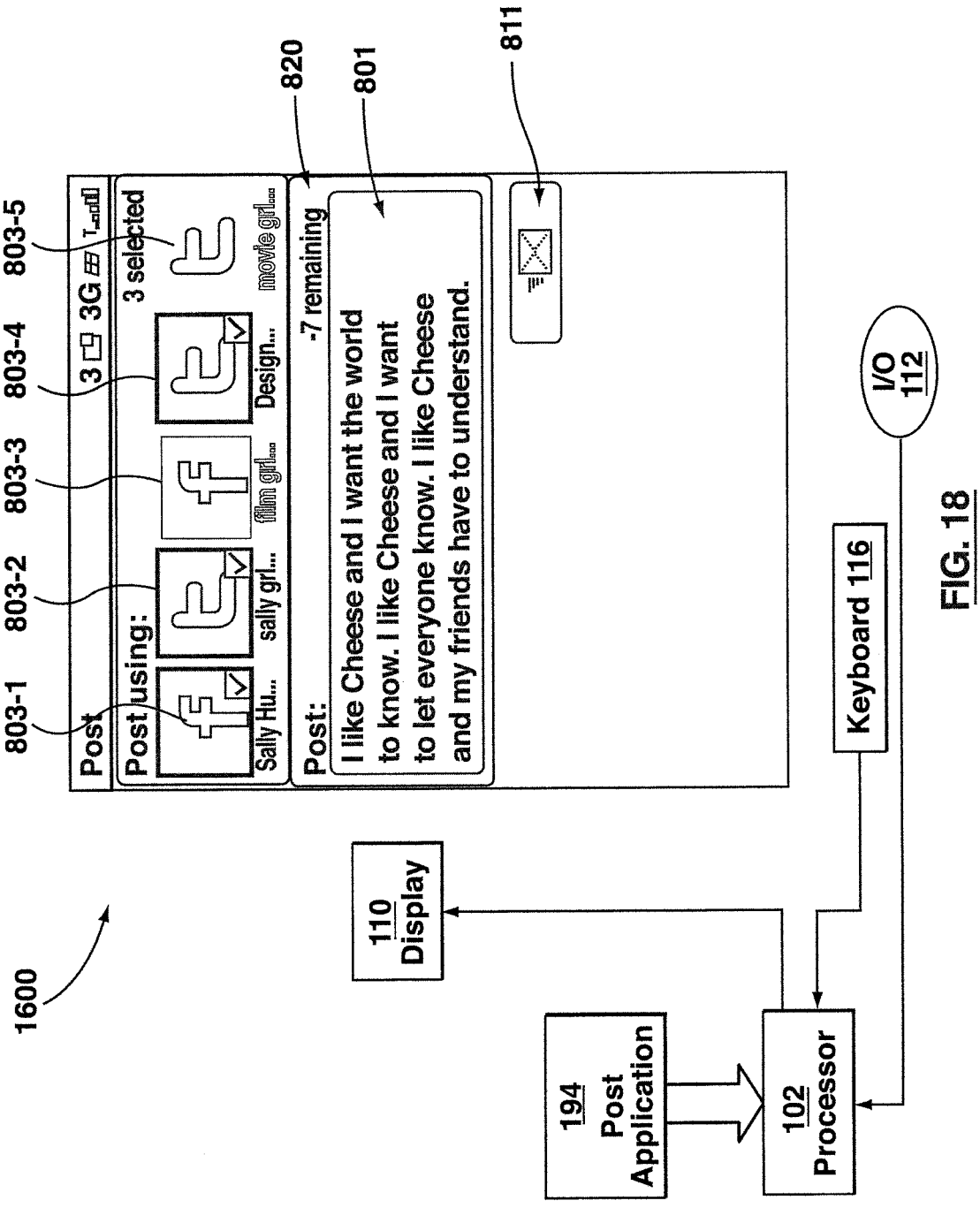

1600
Post
Post using:
3 selected
Sally Hu...
sally grl...
film grl...
Design...
movie grl...
803-1
803-2
803-3
803-4
803-5
820
801
811
Post:
-7 remaining
I like Cheese and I want the world
to know. I like Cheese and I want
to let everyone know. I like Cheese
and my friends have to understand.
110 Display
194 Post Application
102 Processor
Keyboard 116
I/O 112

FIG. 18

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POSTING DATA TO A PLURALITY OF ACCOUNTS

CROSS-RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/327,254, filed on Apr. 23, 2010 which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD

The present specification relates generally to computing devices and more particularly relates to a method and apparatus for posting data to a plurality of accounts.

BACKGROUND

The evolution of computers is currently quite active in the mobile device environment. It is now well-known to including news feed applications and posting applications in mobile devices. More recently, however, there has been a veritable explosion of the number and type of applications that are configured to the unique form factors and computing environments of mobile devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the various implementations described herein and to show more clearly how they may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example only, to the accompanying drawings which show at least one example implementation and in which:

FIG. **1** is a block diagram of an example implementation of a mobile device;

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of an example implementation of a communication subsystem component of the mobile device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is an example block diagram of a node of a wireless network;

FIG. **4** is a block diagram illustrating components of a host system in one example configuration for use with the wireless network of FIG. **3** and the mobile device of FIG. **1**, the host system in communication with application servers;

FIG. **5** is a schematic representation of an appearance of a mobile device according to FIG. **1**;

FIG. **6** is a schematic representation of an appearance of another mobile device;

FIG. **7** is a block diagram of the mobile device of FIG. **6**;

FIG. **8** is an example of a screen generated on the display of the mobile device of FIG. **1** showing a post application;

FIG. **9** is an example of icons of FIG. **8** with components thereof labeled;

FIG. **10** shows a variation of the screen of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **11** shows a variation of the screen of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **12** shows a variation of the screen of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **13** is a block diagram illustrating components of a communication networking including the application servers and host system of FIG. **4** and the mobile device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **14** is an example of a screen generated on the display of the mobile device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **15** is an example of the screen of FIG. **14** including a menu;

FIG. **16** shows a variation of the screen of FIG. **8**, including a field pre-populated from a feed application;

FIG. **17** shows a flowchart depicting a method for posting data to a plurality of accounts; and

FIG. **18** shows a variation of the screen of FIG. **8**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

It will be appreciated that for simplicity and clarity of illustration, where considered appropriate, reference numerals may be repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements. In addition, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the implementations described herein. However, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the implementations described herein may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures and components have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the implementations described herein. Also, the description is not to be considered as limiting the scope of the implementations described herein.

A first aspect of the specification provides a method for posting data to a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers via a mobile device comprising a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem. The method can comprise: controlling the display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts; controlling the display to generate icons, associated with the plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, the icons provided adjacent to the message region, each icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture; receiving input data from the input device indicating that at least one of the icons has been selected; controlling the display to provide an indicator of selection at each of the icons which are selected; and transmitting the message data to each of the plurality of accounts associated with each of the icons which are selected via the communication subsystem.

Each respective picture can comprise at least one of: a picture stored at the mobile device; a picture associated with a respective account of the plurality of respective accounts; or a picture downloaded from a remote server associated with the respective account. The method can further comprise refreshing the picture downloaded from the remote server by querying the remote server in a refresh operation and receiving a refresh picture in response. The method can further comprise refreshing the picture downloaded from the remote server by receiving a refresh picture from the remote server, the refresh picture transmitted by the remote server in a refresh operation.

The first respective indictor can comprise a textual indicator of a name of the respective account provided adjacent to the respective picture.

The second respective indicator can comprise the respective picture.

The second respective indicator can comprise a visual indicator inset in the respective picture.

The indicator of selection can comprise at least one of: a visual difference between selected icons and unselected icons; a visual indicator inset in the second respective picture; a border surrounding the respective picture; or the respective picture for selected icons provided with an original color scheme, wherein pictures for unselected icons are provided with a changed color scheme.

The method can further comprise receiving the message data in the message region via the input device.

The method can further comprise: receiving messages from at least a second subset of the accounts via the communication subsystem, each of the messages received in a

respective data feed; controlling the display to provide the messages; receiving selection data from the input device indicating that one of the messages has been selected via the input device; and populating the message region with the one of the messages, such that the message data can comprise the one of the messages.

The method can further comprise: controlling the display to provide, adjacent to at least one of the message region or the icons, a region for receiving at least one of link data, picture data, file data, event data, or video data; and posting at least one of the link data, the picture data, the file data, the event data, or the video data for upload with the message data.

Each of the plurality of accounts can be associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each account, the method can further comprise: receiving the data in the message region as textual characters; and, as each respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, changing selected icons associated with each respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state. The method can further comprise preventing unselected icons associated with an exceeded maximum number of characters from being selected.

Each of the plurality of servers can comprise at least one of a social networking server, an RSS (real simple syndication) server, or a news server.

A second aspect of the specification provides a mobile device for posting data to a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers. The mobile device can comprise a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem. The processor is enabled to: control the display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts; control the display to generate icons, associated with the plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, the icons provided adjacent to the message region, each icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture; receive input data from the input device indicating that at least one of the icons has been selected; control the display to provide an indicator of selection at each of the icons which are selected; and transmit the message data to each of the plurality of accounts associated with each of the icons which are selected via the communication subsystem.

Each respective picture can comprise at least one of: a picture stored at the mobile device; a picture associated with a respective account of the plurality of respective accounts; or a picture downloaded from a remote server associated with the respective account. The processor can be further enabled to refresh the picture downloaded from the remote server by querying the remote server in a refresh operation and receiving a refresh picture in response. The processor can be further enabled to refresh the picture downloaded from the remote server by receiving a refresh picture from the remote server, the refresh picture transmitted by the remote server in a refresh operation.

The first respective indictor can comprise a textual indicator of a name of the respective account provided adjacent to the respective picture.

The second respective indicator can comprise the respective picture.

The second respective indicator can comprise a visual indicator inset in the respective picture.

The indicator of selection can comprise at least one of: a visual difference between selected icons and unselected icons; a visual indicator inset in the second respective picture; a border surrounding the respective picture; or the respective picture for selected icons provided with an original color scheme, wherein pictures for unselected icons are provided with a changed color scheme.

The processor can be further enabled to receive the message data in the message region via the input device.

The processor can be further enabled to: receive messages from at least a second subset of the accounts via the communication subsystem, each of the messages received in a respective data feed; control the display to provide the messages; receive selection data from the input device indicating that one of the messages has been selected via the input device; and populate the message region with the one of the messages, such that the message data can comprise the one of the messages.

The processor can be further enabled to: control the display to provide, adjacent to at least one of the message region or the icons, a region for receiving at least one of link data, picture data, file data, event data, or video data; and post at least one of the link data, the picture data, the file data, the event data, or the video data for upload with the message data.

Each of the plurality of accounts can be associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each account, and wherein the processor can be further enabled to: receive the data in the message region as textual characters; and, as each respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, change selected icons associated with each respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state. The processor can be further enabled to prevent unselected icons associated with an exceeded maximum number of characters from being selected.

Each of the plurality of servers can comprise at least one of a social networking server, an RSS (real simple syndication) server, or a news server.

A third aspect of the specification provides a system for posting data to a plurality of accounts. The system comprises a plurality of remote servers, the plurality of accounts associated with the plurality of accounts; and a mobile device in communication with the plurality of servers. The mobile device is enabled to: control an associated display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts; control the display to generate icons, associated with the plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, the icons provided adjacent to the message region, each icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture; receive input data from the input device indicating that at least one of the icons has been selected; control the display to provide an indicator of selection at each of the icons which are selected; and transmit the message data to each of the plurality of accounts associated with each of the icons which are selected via an associated communication subsystem.

A fourth aspect of the specification provides a computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for posting data to a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers via a mobile device comprising a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem, comprising: controlling the display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts; controlling the display to generate icons, associated with the plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, the icons provided adjacent to the message region, each icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture; receiv-

ing input data from the input device indicating that at least one of the icons has been selected; controlling the display to provide an indicator of selection at each of the icons which are selected; and transmitting the message data to each of the plurality of accounts associated with each of the icons which are selected via the communication subsystem.

The implementations described herein generally relate to a mobile wireless communication device, hereafter referred to as a mobile device, which can be configured according to an Information Technology (IT) policy. It should be noted that the term IT policy, in general, refers to a collection of IT policy rules, in which the IT policy rules can be defined as being either grouped or non-grouped and global or per-user. The terms grouped, non-grouped, global and per-user are defined further below. Examples of applicable communication devices include pagers, cellular phones, cellular smartphones, wireless organizers, personal digital assistants, computers, laptops, handheld wireless communication devices, wirelessly enabled notebook computers and the like.

The mobile device is a two-way communication device with advanced data communication capabilities including the capability to communicate with other mobile devices or computer systems through a network of transceiver stations. The mobile device may also have the capability to allow voice communication. Depending on the functionality provided by the mobile device, it may be referred to as a data messaging device, a two-way pager, a cellular telephone with data messaging capabilities, a wireless Internet appliance, or a data communication device (with or without telephony capabilities). To aid the reader in understanding the structure of the mobile device and how it communicates with other devices and host systems, reference will now be made to FIGS. **1** through **4**.

Referring first to FIG. **1**, shown therein is a block diagram of an example implementation of a mobile device **100**. The mobile device **100** includes a number of components such as a main processor **102** that controls the overall operation of the mobile device **100**. Communication functions, including data and voice communications, are performed through a communication subsystem **104**. The communication subsystem **104** receives messages from and sends messages to a wireless network **200**. In this example implementation of the mobile device **100**, the communication subsystem **104** is configured in accordance with the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) and General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) standards. The GSM/GPRS wireless network is used worldwide and it is expected that these standards will be superseded eventually by Enhanced Data GSM Environment (EDGE) and Universal Mobile Telecommunications Service (UMTS). New standards are still being defined, but it is believed that they will have similarities to the network behavior described herein, and it will also be understood by persons skilled in the art that the implementations described herein are intended to use any other suitable standards that are developed in the future. The wireless link connecting the communication subsystem **104** with the wireless network **200** represents one or more different Radio Frequency (RF) channels, operating according to defined protocols specified for GSM/GPRS communications. With newer network protocols, these channels are capable of supporting both circuit switched voice communications and packet switched data communications.

Although the wireless network **200** associated with mobile device **100** is a GSM/GPRS wireless network in one example implementation, other wireless networks may also be associated with the mobile device **100** in variant implementations. The different types of wireless networks that may be employed include, for example, data-centric wireless networks, voice-centric wireless networks, and dual-mode networks that can support both voice and data communications over the same physical base stations. Combined dual-mode networks include, but are not limited to, Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) or CDMA2000 networks, GSM/GPRS networks (as mentioned above), and future third-generation (3G) networks like EDGE and UMTS. Some other examples of data-centric networks include WiFi 802.11, Mobitex™ and DataTAC™ network communication systems. Examples of other voice-centric data networks include Personal Communication Systems (PCS) networks like GSM and Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) systems.

The main processor **102** also interacts with additional subsystems such as a Random Access Memory (RAM) **106** (which can be generally viewed as any type of volatile storage), a flash memory **108** (which can be generally viewed as any type of non-volatile storage), a display **110**, an auxiliary input/output (I/O) subsystem **112**, a data port **114**, a keyboard **116**, a speaker **118**, a microphone **120**, short-range communications **122** and other device subsystems **124**.

Some of the subsystems of the mobile device **100** perform communication-related functions, whereas other subsystems may provide "resident" or on-device functions. By way of example, the display **110** and the keyboard **116** may be used for both communication-related functions, such as entering a text message for transmission over the network **200**, and device-resident functions such as a calculator or task list.

The mobile device **100** can send and receive communication signals over the wireless network **200** after required network registration or activation procedures have been completed. Network access is associated with a subscriber or user of the mobile device **100**. In certain implementations, to identify a subscriber, the mobile device **100** utilizes a SIM/RUIM card **126** (i.e. Subscriber Identity Module or a Removable User Identity Module) to be inserted into a SIM/RUIM interface **128** in order to communicate with a network. The SIM card or RUIM **126** is one type of a conventional "smart card" that can be used to identify a subscriber of the mobile device **100** and to personalize the mobile device **100**, among other things. Without the SIM card **126**, the mobile device **100** is not fully operational for communication with the wireless network **200**. By inserting the SIM card/RUIM **126** into the SIM/RUIM interface **128**, a subscriber can access all subscribed services. Services may include: web browsing and messaging such as e-mail, voice mail, Short Message Service (SMS), and Multimedia Messaging Services (MMS). More advanced services may include: point of sale, field service and sales force automation. The SIM card/RUIM **126** includes a processor and memory for storing information. Once the SIM card/RUIM **126** is inserted into the SIM/RUIM interface **128**, it is coupled to the main processor **102**. In order to identify the subscriber, the SIM card/RUIM **126** can include some parameters such as an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI). An advantage of using the SIM card/RUIM **126** is that a subscriber is not necessarily bound by any single physical mobile device. The SIM card/RUIM **126** may store additional subscriber information for a mobile device as well, including datebook (or calendar) information and recent call information. Alternatively, identification information can also be programmed into the flash memory **108**.

The mobile device **100** is a battery-powered device and includes a battery interface **132** for receiving one or more rechargeable batteries **130**. In at least some implementations, the battery **130** can be a smart battery with an embedded microprocessor. The battery interface **132** is coupled to a regulator (not shown), which assists the battery **130** in pro-

viding power V+ to the mobile device **100**. Although current technology makes use of a battery, future technologies such as micro fuel cells may provide the power to the mobile device **100**.

The mobile device **100** also includes an operating system **134** and software components **136** to **146** which are described in more detail below. The operating system **134** and the software components **136** to **146** that are executed by the main processor **102** are typically stored in a persistent store such as the flash memory **108**, which may alternatively be a read-only memory (ROM) or similar storage element (not shown). Those skilled in the art will appreciate that portions of the operating system **134** and the software components **136** to **146**, such as specific device applications, or parts thereof, may be temporarily loaded into a volatile store such as the RAM **106**. Other software components can also be included, as is well known to those skilled in the art.

The subset of software applications **136** that control basic device operations, including data and voice communication applications, will normally be installed on the mobile device **100** during its manufacture. Other software applications include a message application **138** that can be any suitable software program that allows mobile device **100** to send and receive electronic messages. Various alternatives exist for the message application **138** as is well known to those skilled in the art. Messages that have been sent or received are typically stored in the flash memory **108** of the mobile device **100** or some other suitable storage element in the mobile device **100**. In at least some implementations, some of the sent and received messages may be stored remotely from the device **100** such as in a data store of an associated host system that the mobile device **100** communicates with.

The software applications can further include a device state module **140**, a Personal Information Manager (PIM) **142**, and other suitable modules (not shown). The device state module **140** provides persistence, i.e. the device state module **140** ensures that important device data is stored in persistent memory, such as the flash memory **108**, so that the data is not lost when the mobile device **100** is turned off or loses power.

The PIM **142** includes functionality for organizing and managing data items of interest, such as, but not limited to, e-mail, contacts, calendar events, voice mails, appointments, and task items. A PIM application has the ability to send and receive data items via the wireless network **200**. PIM data items may be seamlessly integrated, synchronized, and updated via the wireless network **200** with the mobile device subscriber's corresponding data items stored and/or associated with a host computer system. This functionality creates a mirrored host computer on the mobile device **100** with respect to such items. This can be particularly advantageous when the host computer system is the mobile device subscriber's office computer system.

The mobile device **100** also includes a connect module **144**, and an IT policy module **146**. The connect module **144** implements the communication protocols that are required for the mobile device **100** to communicate with the wireless infrastructure and any host system, such as an enterprise system, that the mobile device **100** is authorized to interface with. Examples of a wireless infrastructure and an enterprise system are given in FIGS. **3** and **4**, which are described in more detail below.

The connect module **144** includes a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that can be integrated with the mobile device **100** to allow the mobile device **100** to use any number of services associated with the enterprise system. The connect module **144** allows the mobile device **100** to establish an end-to-end secure, authenticated communication pipe with the host system. A subset of applications for which access is provided by the connect module **144** can be used to pass IT policy commands from the host system to the mobile device **100**. This can be done in a wireless or wired manner. These instructions can then be passed to the IT policy module **146** to modify the configuration of the device **100**. Alternatively, in some cases, the IT policy update can also be done over a wired connection.

The IT policy module **146** receives IT policy data that encodes the IT policy. The IT policy module **146** then ensures that the IT policy data is authenticated by the mobile device **100**. The IT policy data can then be stored in the flash memory **106** in its native form. After the IT policy data is stored, a global notification can be sent by the IT policy module **146** to all of the applications residing on the mobile device **100**. Applications for which the IT policy may be applicable then respond by reading the IT policy data to look for IT policy rules that are applicable.

The IT policy module **146** can include a parser (not shown), which can be used by the applications to read the IT policy rules. In some cases, another module or application can provide the parser. Grouped IT policy rules, described in more detail below, are retrieved as byte streams, which are then sent (recursively, in a sense) into the parser to determine the values of each IT policy rule defined within the grouped IT policy rule. In at least some implementations, the IT policy module **146** can determine which applications are affected by the IT policy data and send a notification to only those applications. In either of these cases, for applications that aren't running at the time of the notification, the applications can call the parser or the IT policy module **146** when they are executed to determine if there are any relevant IT policy rules in the newly received IT policy data.

All applications that support rules in the IT Policy are coded to know the type of data to expect. For example, the value that is set for the "WEP User Name" IT policy rule is known to be a string; therefore the value in the IT policy data that corresponds to this rule is interpreted as a string. As another example, the setting for the "Set Maximum Password Attempts" IT policy rule is known to be an integer, and therefore the value in the IT policy data that corresponds to this rule is interpreted as such.

After the IT policy rules have been applied to the applicable applications or configuration files, the IT policy module **146** sends an acknowledgement back to the host system to indicate that the IT policy data was received and successfully applied.

Other types of software applications can also be installed on the mobile device **100**. These software applications can be third party applications, which are added after the manufacture of the mobile device **100**. Examples of third party applications include games, calculators, utilities, etc.

In non-limiting implementations, mobile device **100** can include a feed application **192** and a post application **194**. Feed application **192** receives data from any suitable number of application servers **294-1**, **294-2**, **294-3** . . . **294**-N (collectively referred as application servers **294**, and an individual application server as application server **294**), which can comprise RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed servers, social networking sites such as Twitter™, Facebook™, online communities, or the like. With reference to FIG. **3**, data received from the application servers **294**, via host system **250** described below, is provided in the feed application **192**, for example in as associated graphical user interface (GUI) at display **110**. Associated accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** application servers **194** are registered at mobile device **100** (e.g. registration data is stored in a data file

associated with feed application **192**), and when feed application **192** is running, feed application **192** logs into the associated accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** in an always connected mode. Hence, posts, news, feeds or the like from each account at each application server **294** appear in the GUI of the feeds application **192**.

The post application **194**, which is described in more detail below, has access to the stored registration data associated with the feeds application **192**, and enables the mobile device **100** to upload data to at least a subset of application servers **194** simultaneously.

The post application **194**, which is described in more detail below, has access to the stored registration data associated with the feeds application **192**, and enables the mobile device **100** to upload data to at least a subset of applications servers **194** simultaneously.

The additional applications can be loaded onto the mobile device **100** through at least one of the wireless network **200**, the auxiliary I/O subsystem **112**, the data port **114**, the short-range communications subsystem **122**, or any other suitable device subsystem **124**. This flexibility in application installation increases the functionality of the mobile device **100** and may provide enhanced on-device functions, communication-related functions, or both. For example, secure communication applications may enable electronic commerce functions and other such financial transactions to be performed using the mobile device **100**.

The data port **114** enables a subscriber to set preferences through an external device or software application and extends the capabilities of the mobile device **100** by providing for information or software downloads to the mobile device **100** other than through a wireless communication network. The alternate download path may, for example, be used to load an encryption key onto the mobile device **100** through a direct and thus reliable and trusted connection to provide secure device communication.

The data port **114** can be any suitable port that enables data communication between the mobile device **100** and another computing device. The data port **114** can be a serial or a parallel port. In some instances, the data port **114** can be a USB port that includes data lines for data transfer and a supply line that can provide a charging current to charge the battery **130** of the mobile device **100**.

The short-range communications subsystem **122** provides for communication between the mobile device **100** and different systems or devices, without the use of the wireless network **200**. For example, the subsystem **122** may include an infrared device and associated circuits and components for short-range communication. Examples of short-range communication standards include standards developed by the Infrared Data Association (IrDA), Bluetooth, and the 802.11 family of standards developed by IEEE.

In use, a received signal such as a text message, an e-mail message, or web page download will be processed by the communication subsystem **104** and input to the main processor **102**. The main processor **102** will then process the received signal for output to the display **110** or alternatively to the auxiliary I/O subsystem. A subscriber may also compose data items, such as e-mail messages, for example, using the keyboard **116** in conjunction with the display **110** and possibly the auxiliary I/O subsystem **112**. The auxiliary subsystem **112** may include any suitable input device such as: a touch screen, mouse, track ball, infrared fingerprint detector, a touchpad, a touch screen or a roller wheel with dynamic button pressing capability. The keyboard **116** may comprise an alphanumeric keyboard and/or telephone-type keypad. However, other types of keyboards may also be used. A composed item may be transmitted over the wireless network **200** through the communication subsystem **104**.

For voice communications, the overall operation of the mobile device **100** is substantially similar, except that the received signals are output to the speaker **118**, and signals for transmission are generated by the microphone **120**. Alternative voice or audio I/O subsystems, such as a voice message recording subsystem, can also be implemented on the mobile device **100**. Although voice or audio signal output is accomplished primarily through the speaker **118**, the display **110** can also be used to provide additional information such as the identity of a calling party, duration of a voice call, or other voice call related information.

Referring now to FIG. **2**, an example block diagram of the communication subsystem component **104** is shown. The communication subsystem **104** includes a receiver **150**, a transmitter **152**, as well as associated components such as one or more embedded or internal antenna elements **154** and **156**, Local Oscillators (LOs) **158**, and a processing module such as a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) **160**. The particular design of the communication subsystem **104** is dependent upon the communication network **200** with which the mobile device **100** is intended to operate. Thus, it should be understood that the design illustrated in FIG. **2** serves only as one example.

Signals received by the antenna **154** through the wireless network **200** are input to the receiver **150**, which may perform such common receiver functions as signal amplification, frequency down conversion, filtering, channel selection, and analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion. A/D conversion of a received signal allows more complex communication functions such as demodulation and decoding to be performed in the DSP **160**. In a similar manner, signals to be transmitted are processed, including modulation and encoding, by the DSP **160**. These DSP-processed signals are input to the transmitter **152** for digital-to-analog (D/A) conversion, frequency up conversion, filtering, amplification and transmission over the wireless network **200** via the antenna **156**. The DSP **160** not only processes communication signals, but also provides for receiver and transmitter control. For example, the gains applied to communication signals in the receiver **150** and the transmitter **152** may be adaptively controlled through automatic gain control algorithms implemented in the DSP **160**.

The wireless link between the mobile device **100** and the wireless network **200** can contain one or more different channels, typically different RF channels, and associated protocols used between the mobile device **100** and the wireless network **200**. An RF channel is a limited resource that must be conserved, typically due to limits in overall bandwidth and limited battery power of the mobile device **100**.

When the mobile device **100** is fully operational, the transmitter **152** is typically keyed or turned on only when it is transmitting to the wireless network **200** and is otherwise turned off to conserve resources. Similarly, the receiver **150** is periodically turned off to conserve power until it is needed to receive signals or information (if at all) during designated time periods.

Referring now to FIG. **3**, a block diagram of an example implementation of a node **202** of the wireless network **200** is shown. In practice, the wireless network **200** comprises one or more nodes **202**. In conjunction with the connect module **144**, the mobile device **100** can communicate with the node **202** within the wireless network **200**. In the example implementation of FIG. **3**, the node **202** is configured in accordance with General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and Global Systems for Mobile (GSM) technologies. The node **202** includes a base station controller (BSC) **204** with an associated tower

station **206**, a Packet Control Unit (PCU) **208** added for GPRS support in GSM, a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) **210**, a Home Location Register (HLR) **212**, a Visitor Location Registry (VLR) **214**, a Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) **216**, a Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN) **218**, and a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) **220**. This list of components is not meant to be an exhaustive list of the components of every node **202** within a GSM/GPRS network, but rather a list of components that are commonly used in communications through the network **200**.

In a GSM network, the MSC **210** is coupled to the BSC **204** and to a landline network, such as a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) **222** to satisfy circuit switched requirements. The connection through the PCU **208**, the SGSN **216** and the GGSN **218** to a public or private network (Internet) **224** (also referred to herein generally as a shared network infrastructure) represents the data path for GPRS capable mobile devices. In a GSM network extended with GPRS capabilities, the BSC **204** also contains the Packet Control Unit (PCU) **208** that connects to the SGSN **216** to control segmentation, radio channel allocation and to satisfy packet switched requirements. To track the location of the mobile device **100** and availability for both circuit switched and packet switched management, the HLR **212** is shared between the MSC **210** and the SGSN **216**. Access to the VLR **214** is controlled by the MSC **210**.

The station **206** is a fixed transceiver station and together with the BSC **204** form fixed transceiver equipment. The fixed transceiver equipment provides wireless network coverage for a particular coverage area commonly referred to as a "cell". The fixed transceiver equipment transmits communication signals to and receives communication signals from mobile devices within its cell via the station **206**. The fixed transceiver equipment normally performs such functions as modulation and possibly encoding and/or encryption of signals to be transmitted to the mobile device **100** in accordance with particular, usually predetermined, communication protocols and parameters, under control of its controller. The fixed transceiver equipment similarly demodulates and possibly decodes and decrypts, if necessary, any communication signals received from the mobile device **100** within its cell. Communication protocols and parameters may vary between different nodes. For example, one node may employ a different modulation scheme and operate at different frequencies than other nodes.

For all mobile devices **100** registered with a specific network, permanent configuration data such as a profile is stored in the HLR **212**. The HLR **212** also contains location information for each registered mobile device and can be queried to determine the current location of a mobile device. The MSC **210** is responsible for a group of location areas and stores the data of the mobile devices currently in its area of responsibility in the VLR **214**. Further, the VLR **214** also contains information on mobile devices that are visiting other networks. The information in the VLR **214** includes part of the permanent mobile device data transmitted from the HLR **212** to the VLR **214** for faster access. By moving additional information from a remote HLR **212** node to the VLR **214**, the amount of traffic between these nodes can be reduced so that voice and data services can be provided with faster response times and at the same time requiring less use of computing resources.

The SGSN **216** and the GGSN **218** are elements added for GPRS support; namely packet switched data support, within GSM. The SGSN **216** and the MSC **210** have similar responsibilities within the wireless network **200** by keeping track of the location of each mobile device **100**. The SGSN **216** also performs security functions and access control for data traffic on the wireless network **200**. The GGSN **218** provides internetworking connections with external packet switched networks and connects to one or more SGSN's **216** via an Internet Protocol (IP) backbone network operated within the network **200**. During normal operations, a given mobile device **100** must perform a "GPRS Attach" to acquire an IP address and to access data services. This requirement is not present in circuit switched voice channels such as Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) where addresses are used for routing incoming and outgoing calls. Currently, all GPRS capable networks use private, dynamically assigned IP addresses, thus requiring the DHCP server **220** connected to the GGSN **218**. There are many mechanisms for dynamic IP address assignment, including using a combination of a Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server and a DHCP server. Once the GPRS Attach is complete, a logical connection is established from a mobile device **100**, through the PCU **208**, and the SGSN **216** to an Access Point Node (APN) within the GGSN **218**. The APN represents a logical end of an IP tunnel that can either access direct Internet compatible services or private network connections. The APN also represents a security mechanism for the network **200**, insofar as each mobile device **100** must be assigned to one or more APNs and mobile devices **100** cannot exchange data without first performing a GPRS Attach to an APN that it has been authorized to use. The APN may be considered to be similar to an Internet domain name such as "myconnection.wireless.com".

Once the GPRS Attach operation is complete, a tunnel is created and all traffic is exchanged within standard IP packets using any protocol that can be supported in IP packets. This includes tunneling methods such as IP over IP as in the case with some IPSecurity (IPsec) connections used with Virtual Private Networks (VPN). These tunnels are also referred to as Packet Data Protocol (PDP) Contexts and there are a limited number of these available in the network **200**. To maximize use of the PDP Contexts, the network **200** will run an idle timer for each PDP Context to determine if there is a lack of activity. When a mobile device **100** is not using its PDP Context, the PDP Context can be de-allocated and the IP address returned to the IP address pool managed by the DHCP server **220**.

Furthermore, the host system **250** is in communication with the application servers **294** via any suitable combination of communication links and communication networks, which can be at least one of wired or wireless. As described above, the mobile device **100** can be signed into accounts ACC **1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** at the application servers **294**, and the application servers **294** can send data associated with the respective accounts to the mobile device **100** for storage and display thereon, for example via the feed application **192**. Furthermore, data can be posted to application servers **294** via post application **194** described below. Applications servers **194** can comprise RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed servers, social networking sites such as Twitter™, Facebook™, or the like, or any other suitable application server.

Furthermore, mobile device **100** is associated with at least one account ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** at, at least one application server **294** (accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** collectively referred as accounts ACC, and generically as an account ACC). Each application server **194** can be associated with one or more of accounts ACC. As depicted application server **294-1** is associated with accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, application server **294-2** is associated with accounts ACC-**4**, ACC-**5**, and application servers **294-3**, **294**-N are not associated with any accounts.

Indeed, it is appreciated that application servers **294-1**, **294-2** are each enabled to provide services for which multiple accounts for mobile device **100** have been created, specifically services that provide data to mobile device **100** for feed application **192**, such as social networking data, RSS data, feed data, or the like. Furthermore, data can be posted or published to accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** for access by other devices who are subscribed to respective data from accounts ACC. It is further appreciated that application servers **294-3**, **294**-N are application servers for which no accounts have yet been created; however accounts could be created at a later time.

Referring now to FIG. **4**, shown therein is a block diagram illustrating components of an example configuration of a host system **250** that the mobile device **100** can communicate with in conjunction with the connect module **144**. While not depicted in FIG. **4**, it is appreciated that host system **250** is also in communication with application server **294**. The host system **250** will typically be a corporate enterprise network or other local area network (LAN), but may also be a home office computer or some other private system, for example, in variant implementations. In this example shown in FIG. **4**, the host system **250** is depicted as a LAN of an organization to which the mobile device **100** is associated. Typically, a plurality of mobile devices can communicate wirelessly with the host system **250** through one or more nodes **202** of the wireless network **200**.

The host system **250** comprises a number of network components connected to each other by a network **260**. For instance, a desktop computer **262***a* with an accompanying cradle **264** for the mobile device **100** is situated on a LAN connection. The cradle **264** for the mobile device **100** can be coupled to the computer **262***a* by a serial or a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection, for example. Other computers **262***b*-**262***n* are also situated on the network **260**, and each may or may not be equipped with an accompanying cradle **264**. The cradle **264** facilitates the loading of information (e.g. PIM data, private symmetric encryption keys to facilitate secure communications) from the user computer **262***a* to the mobile device **100**, and may be particularly useful for bulk information updates often performed in initializing the mobile device **100** for use. The information downloaded to the mobile device **100** may include certificates used in the exchange of messages.

It will be understood by persons skilled in the art that the user computers **262***a*-**262***n* will typically also be connected to other peripheral devices, such as printers, etc. which are not explicitly shown in FIG. **4**. Furthermore, only a subset of network components of the host system **250** are shown in FIG. **4** for ease of exposition, and it will be understood by persons skilled in the art that the host system **250** will comprise additional components that are not explicitly shown in FIG. **4** for this example configuration. More generally, the host system **250** may represent a smaller part of a larger network (not shown) of the organization, and may comprise different components and/or be arranged in different topologies than that shown in the example implementation of FIG. **4**.

To facilitate the operation of the mobile device **100** and the wireless communication of messages and message-related data between the mobile device **100** and components of the host system **250**, a number of wireless communication support components **270** can be provided. In some implementations, the wireless communication support components **270** can include a message management server **272**, a mobile data server **274**, a contact server **276**, and a device manager module **278**. The device manager module **278** includes an IT Policy editor **280** and an IT user property editor **282**, as well as other software components for allowing an IT administrator to configure the mobile devices **100**. In an alternative implementation, there may be one editor that provides the functionality of both the IT policy editor **280** and the IT user property editor **282**. The support components **270** also include a data store **284**, and an IT policy server **286**. The IT policy server **286** includes a processor **288**, a network interface **290** and a memory unit **292**. The processor **288** controls the operation of the IT policy server **286** and executes functions related to the standardized IT policy as described below. The network interface **290** allows the IT policy server **286** to communicate with the various components of the host system **250** and the mobile devices **100**. The memory unit **292** can store functions used in implementing the IT policy as well as related data. Those skilled in the art know how to implement these various components. Other components may also be included as is well known to those skilled in the art. Further, in some implementations, the data store **284** can be part of any one of the servers.

In this example implementation, the mobile device **100** communicates with the host system **250** through node **202** of the wireless network **200** and a shared network infrastructure **224** such as a service provider network or the public Internet. Access to the host system **250** may be provided through one or more routers (not shown), and computing devices of the host system **250** may operate from behind a firewall or proxy server **266**. The proxy server **266** provides a secure node and a wireless internet gateway for the host system **250**. The proxy server **266** intelligently routes data to the correct destination server within the host system **250**.

In some implementations, the host system **250** can include a wireless VPN router (not shown) to facilitate data exchange between the host system **250** and the mobile device **100**. The wireless VPN router allows a VPN connection to be established directly through a specific wireless network to the mobile device **100**. The wireless VPN router can be used with the Internet Protocol (IP) Version 6 (IPV6) and IP-based wireless networks. This protocol can provide enough IP addresses so that each mobile device has a dedicated IP address, making it possible to push information to a mobile device at any time. An advantage of using a wireless VPN router is that it can be an off-the-shelf VPN component, and does not require a separate wireless gateway and separate wireless infrastructure. A VPN connection can be a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)/IP or User Datagram Protocol (UDP)/IP connection for delivering the messages directly to the mobile device **100** in this alternative implementation.

Messages intended for a user of the mobile device **100** are initially received by a message server **268** of the host system **250**. Such messages may originate from any number of sources. For instance, a message may have been sent by a sender from the computer **262***b* within the host system **250**, from a different mobile device (not shown) connected to the wireless network **200** or a different wireless network, or from a different computing device, or other device capable of sending messages, via the shared network infrastructure **224**, possibly through an application service provider (ASP) or Internet service provider (ISP), for example.

The message server **268** typically acts as the primary interface for the exchange of messages, particularly e-mail messages, within the organization and over the shared network infrastructure **224**. Each user in the organization that has been set up to send and receive messages is typically associated with a user account managed by the message server **268**.

Some example implementations of the message server **268** include a Microsoft Exchange™ server, a Lotus Domino™ server, a Novell Groupwise™ server, or another suitable mail server installed in a corporate environment. In some implementations, the host system **250** may comprise multiple message servers **268**. The message server **268** may also be adapted to provide additional functions beyond message management, including the management of data associated with calendars and task lists, for example.

When messages are received by the message server **268**, they are typically stored in a data store associated with the message server **268**. In at least some implementations, the data store may be a separate hardware unit, such as data store **284**, that the message server **268** communicates with. Messages can be subsequently retrieved and delivered to users by accessing the message server **268**. For instance, an e-mail client application operating on a user's computer **262***a* may request the e-mail messages associated with that user's account stored on the data store associated with the message server **268**. These messages are then retrieved from the data store and stored locally on the computer **262***a*. The data store associated with the message server **268** can store copies of each message that is locally stored on the mobile device **100**. Alternatively, the data store associated with the message server **268** can store all of the messages for the user of the mobile device **100** and only a smaller number of messages can be stored on the mobile device **100** to conserve memory. For instance, the most recent messages (i.e. those received in the past two to three months for example) can be stored on the mobile device **100**.

When operating the mobile device **100**, the user may wish to have e-mail messages retrieved for delivery to the mobile device **100**. The message application **138** operating on the mobile device **100** may also request messages associated with the user's account from the message server **268**. The message application **138** may be configured (either by the user or by an administrator, possibly in accordance with an organization's information technology (IT) policy) to make this request at the direction of the user, at some pre-defined time interval, or upon the occurrence of some pre-defined event. In some implementations, the mobile device **100** is assigned its own e-mail address, and messages addressed specifically to the mobile device **100** are automatically redirected to the mobile device **100** as they are received by the message server **268**.

The message management server **272** can be used to specifically provide support for the management of messages, such as e-mail messages, that are to be handled by mobile devices. Generally, while messages are still stored on the message server **268**, the message management server **272** can be used to control when, if, and how messages are sent to the mobile device **100**. The message management server **272** also facilitates the handling of messages composed on the mobile device **100**, which are sent to the message server **268** for subsequent delivery.

For example, the message management server **272** may monitor the user's "mailbox" (e.g. the message store associated with the user's account on the message server **268**) for new e-mail messages, and apply user-definable filters to new messages to determine if and how the messages are relayed to the user's mobile device **100**. The message management server **272** may also compress and encrypt new messages (e.g. using an encryption technique such as Data Encryption Standard (DES), Triple DES, or Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)) and push them to the mobile device **100** via the shared network infrastructure **224** and the wireless network **200**. The message management server **272** may also receive messages composed on the mobile device **100** (e.g. encrypted using Triple DES), decrypt and decompress the composed messages, re-format the composed messages if desired so that they will appear to have originated from the user's computer **262***a*, and re-route the composed messages to the message server **268** for delivery.

Certain properties or restrictions associated with messages that are to be sent from and/or received by the mobile device **100** can be defined (e.g. by an administrator in accordance with IT policy) and enforced by the message management server **272**. These may include whether the mobile device **100** may receive encrypted and/or signed messages, minimum encryption key sizes, whether outgoing messages must be encrypted and/or signed, and whether copies of all secure messages sent from the mobile device **100** are to be sent to a pre-defined copy address, for example.

The message management server **272** may also be adapted to provide other control functions, such as only pushing certain message information or pre-defined portions (e.g. "blocks") of a message stored on the message server **268** to the mobile device **100**. For example, in some cases, when a message is initially retrieved by the mobile device **100** from the message server **268**, the message management server **272** may push only the first part of a message to the mobile device **100**, with the part being of a pre-defined size (e.g. 2 KB). The user can then request that more of the message be delivered in similar-sized blocks by the message management server **272** to the mobile device **100**, possibly up to a maximum pre-defined message size. Accordingly, the message management server **272** facilitates better control over the type of data and the amount of data that is communicated to the mobile device **100**, and can help to minimize potential waste of bandwidth or other resources.

The mobile data server **274** encompasses any other server that stores information that is relevant to the corporation. The mobile data server **274** may include, but is not limited to, databases, online data document repositories, customer relationship management (CRM) systems, or enterprise resource planning (ERP) applications.

The contact server **276** can provide information for a list of contacts for the user in a similar fashion as the address book on the mobile device **100**. Accordingly, for a given contact, the contact server **276** can include the name, phone number, work address and e-mail address of the contact, among other information. The contact server **276** can also provide a global address list that contains the contact information for all of the contacts associated with the host system **250**.

It will be understood by persons skilled in the art that the message management server **272**, the mobile data server **274**, the contact server **276**, the device manager module **278**, the data store **284** and the IT policy server **286** do not need to be implemented on separate physical servers within the host system **250**. For example, some or all of the functions associated with the message management server **272** may be integrated with the message server **268**, or some other server in the host system **250**. Alternatively, the host system **250** may comprise multiple message management servers **272**, particularly in variant implementations where a large number of mobile devices need to be supported.

Alternatively, in some implementations, the IT policy server **286** can provide the IT policy editor **280**, the IT user property editor **282** and the data store **284**. In some cases, the IT policy server **286** can also provide the device manager module **278**. The processor **288** of the IT policy server **286** can be used to perform the various steps of a method for providing IT policy data that is customizable on a per-user basis as explained further below and in conjunction with FIGS. **5** to **8**. The processor **288** can execute the editors **280**

and **282**. In some cases, the functionality of the editors **280** and **282** can be provided by a single editor. In some cases, the memory unit **292** can provide the data store **284**.

The device manager module **278** provides an IT administrator with a graphical user interface with which the IT administrator interacts to configure various settings for the mobile devices **100**. As mentioned, the IT administrator can use IT policy rules to define behaviors of certain applications on the mobile device **100** that are permitted such as phone, web browser or Instant Messenger use. The IT policy rules can also be used to set specific values for configuration settings that an organization requires on the mobile devices **100** such as auto signature text, WLAN/VoIP/VPN configuration, security requirements (e.g. encryption algorithms, password rules, etc.), specifying themes or applications that are allowed to run on the mobile device **100**, and the like.

It is to be emphasized that the foregoing provides non-limiting examples of configurations for mobile device **100**, host system **250**. For example, it is to be understood that mobile device **100** is purely an example, and it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that a variety of different portable electronic device structures are contemplated. Indeed variations on mobile device **100** can include, without limitation, a cellular telephone, a portable email paging device, a camera, a portable music player, a portable video player, a portable video game player and the like. Other contemplated variations include devices which are not necessarily portable, such as desktop computers.

Referring now to FIG. **5**, a specific contemplated variation of device **100** is indicated at **100***a*. Mobile device **100***a* contains several of the same components as device **100**, or variations on them, and accordingly, like components bear like references, except followed by the suffix "a". However, while FIG. **1** showed a block diagram of the internal components of device **100**, FIG. **5** shows an example physical appearance and structure for device **100***a*. Of note is that FIG. **5** shows the mobile device **100***a* as comprising a chassis **101***a* that supports display **110***a*. Display **110***a* can comprise one or more light emitters such as an array of light emitting diodes (LED), liquid crystals, plasma cells, or organic light emitting diodes (OLED). Other types of light emitters are contemplated. Chassis **101***a* also supports keyboard **116***a*. It is to be understood that this specification is not limited to any particular structure, spacing, pitch or shape of keyboard **116***a*, and the depiction in FIG. **5** is purely example. For example, full or reduced "QWERTY" keyboards are contemplated. Other types of keyboards are contemplated. Device **100***a* also comprises a first pointing device **112***a*-**1** which in a present implementation is implemented as a touch-pad, but in other implementations can be implemented as a joystick, trackball, trackwheel. Device **100***a* also comprises a second pointing device **112***a*-**2** which in a present implementation is implemented as a touch-sensitive membrane disposed over display **110***a*, thereby providing a touch-screen for device **100***a*. While two pointing devices **112***a*-**1** and **112***a*-**2**, it is to be understood that in variations, only one pointing device **112***a*-**1** and **112***a*-**2** may be provided. It should also be understood that other types of input devices are contemplated, including input devices which are structurally different that the specific examples provided are contemplated, but are also functionally equivalent and able to, for example, receive "swipe" inputs and send an electrical signal representing such an input to processor **102***b*. Device **100***a* also comprises a speaker **118***a* for generating audio output, and a microphone **120***a* for receiving audio input.

Referring now to FIG. **6**, another specific contemplated variation of device **100** is indicated at **100***b*. Mobile device **100***b* contains several of the same components as device **100***a*, or variations on them, and accordingly, like components bear like references, except followed by the suffix "b". Of note is that in FIG. **6**, keyboard **116***a* is not provided, while two pointing devices **112***b*-**1** and **112***b*-**2** are provided. Again, in a variation of device **100***b*, only one of pointing devices **112***a*-**1** and **112***a*-**2** may be provided, although in such a variation, typically second pointing device **112***b*-**2** is provided in order to provide a touch-screen for device **100***b*.

For convenience, the following discussion is made with reference to mobile device **100***b*, including both pointing devices **112***b*-**1** and **112***b*-**2**, but upon reading the remainder of this specification, those skilled in the art will become able to appreciate how the following discussions can be applied to variations of mobile device **100***b*. To that end, FIG. **7** shows a block diagram of device **100***b*. FIG. **7** is a modified version of FIG. **1**, and of note FIG. **7** specifically shows touch-pad **112***b*-**1** and touch-screen **112***b*-**2**. Also of note is that, in a present non-limiting example implementation, touch-pad **112***b*-**1** is configured to not only be sensitive to touch inputs, but touch-pad **112***b*-**1** is also mechanically structured as a mechanical switch, such that it can also be mechanically depressed and moved in a direction that is normal to the surface of touch-pad **112***b*-**1**. The mechanical switch is also spring biased towards a non-depressed position, so that upon release the mechanical switch returns to the non-depressed position. Accordingly, touch-pad **112***b*-**1** is configured to receive selection inputs by mechanical depression of touch-pad **112***b*-**1**, while touch-screen **112***b*-**2** is configured to receive selection inputs corresponding to screen focus by a tap received on touch-screen **112***b*-**2**. It should be noted, however, that in variations, touch-pad **112***b*-**1** can additionally be configured, or alternatively configured, to receive selection inputs by a tap received on touch-pad **112***b*-**1**. Where touch-pad **112***b*-**1** can received a tap input, then the mechanical switch can be removed from touch-pad **112***b*-**1** altogether.

While not shown, in another variation it should be understood that touch-screen **112***b*-**2** can also be varied to also include a mechanical switch so that a force requiring a mechanical click on touch-screen **112***b*-**2** in order to select an item in focus on touch screen **112***b*-**2**. Such a mechanical switch can be provided for touch-screen **112***b*-**2** either in lieu of, or in addition to, the "tap" input capability provided for touch-screen **112***b*-**2**.

FIG. **7** also specifically shows, as part of device **100***b*, at least one additional application **197***b*.

FIG. **8** shows a non-limiting example of execution of post application **194** on processor **102**. Alternatively post application **194***a* can be executed on processor **102***b*. In any event, when post application **194** is executed at processor **102**, processor **102** controls display **110** to provide representation **800**. As can be seen in FIG. **8**, processor **102** controls display **110** to provide a message region **801** in representation **800**, icons **803**-**1**, **803**-**2**, **803**-**3**, **803**-**4** (collectively icons **803** and individually an icon **803**) adjacent to message region **801**.

Message region **801** is for receiving message data (e.g. text received in message region **801**) to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts ACC at application servers **294**. For example, message data can be received in message region **801** via keyboard **116**. Alternatively, message data can be received via feed application **192**, as will be described below.

Icons **803** are provided for each of the plurality of accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3**, ACC-**4**, ACC-**5** in a one-to-one relationship. Each icon **803** can be selected via auxiliary I/O **112**, for example by receiving input data from auxiliary I/O **112** indicating that at least one of the icons **803** has been selected.

When an icon **803** is selected, message data in message region **801** is posted to each account ACC associated with a selected icon **803**.

Representation **800** further comprises a non-limiting remaining characters region **820**, which is updated with each character of text received in message region **801**. For example, uploads to some accounts ACC (e.g. Twitter™ accounts) can be limited to a total given maximum number of characters, such as 140 characters. However, different accounts can have different maximum numbers of characters that can be uploaded. The maximum total number of characters that can be provided in message region **801** can be determined from the account ACC having smallest maximum number of characters that can be uploaded (e.g. a lowest common denominator character limit, so that message data can be posted to all accounts ACC). As depicted in FIG. **8**, region **820** indicates that 140 characters are remaining as no text has yet been received in message region **801**. In contrast, in FIG. **16** described below, 13 characters have been received in message region **801**, and hence region **820** has been updated, by processor **102** controlling display **110**, to indicate that 127 characters are remaining.

FIG. **9** depicts icons **803-1** and **803-2** in more detail, icon **803-1** being a selected icon and icon **803-2** being an unselected icon. Each icon **803**, as represented by icons **803-1**, **803-3**, respectively comprises a first respective indicator **901-1**, **901-3** of a respective account, a second respective indicator **902-1**, **902-3** of a service associated with a respective account ACC, and a respective picture **903-1**, **903-3**.

Each first indicator **901-1**, **901-3** can comprise a textual indicator of a name of a respective account ACC, for example a first portion of the name "Sally Hume" and "filmgrl". Where the name of an account ACC is too long to be fully provided in an icon **803**, the name can be partially shown as in "Sally Hu . . . ". Furthermore, it is appreciated that while each icon **803-1**, **803-3** is associated with the same service/application server **294**, as will be described below, each icon **803-1**, **803-3** is associated with different accounts ACC: for example the account "Sally Hume" could be used to receive and post data related to personal friends and associates of Sally Hume, while the account "filmgrl" could be used to receive and post data related to film, cinema etc. using the same service.

Each second indicator **902-1**, **902-3** can comprise a textual or visual indicator of a service associated with a respective account ACC. For example, in depicted implementations, each second indicator **902-1**, **902-3** comprises a stylized lower-case "f", indicating that the associated service is Facebook™.

Each picture **903-1**, **903-2** comprises a picture associated with the respective account ACC. In implementations depicted in FIG. **9**, each picture **903-1**, **903-2** includes the respective indicator **902-1**, **902-3**; however, in other implementations, each picture **903-1**, **903-2** can include at least one of a picture stored at said mobile device, a picture associated with a respective account, or a picture downloaded from a respective application server **294** associated with a respective account ACC. For example, each account ACC can be associated with a profile picture stored at a respective application server **294**; respective profile pictures can be downloaded to mobile device **100** and provided as respective pictures **903-1**, **903-3**, as will be described below with reference to FIG. **12**.

In any event, first indicator **901-1**, **903-3** can be provided adjacent to respective pictures **902-1**, **902-3**.

Furthermore, when an icon **803** is selected, for example via auxiliary I/O **112**, processor **102** can control display **110** to provide an indicator **905** of selection at each of the icons **803** which are selected, for example icon **803-1**. In implementations depicted in FIG. **9**, indicator **905** comprises a visual indicator, specifically a checkmark, inset in picture **902-1** and border surrounding picture **902-1**. In general, selection of an icon **803** is further indicated by a visual difference between selected icons, such as **803-1**, **803-2**, **803-4** and unselected icons, such as icons **803-3**, **803-5**. For example, in selected icon **803-1**, picture **902-1** is provided with an original color scheme, whereas in unselected icon **803-3**, picture **902-3** is provided with a changed color scheme. Specifically, picture **902-3** is greyed out, which can also be referred to as "ghosted". Alternatively, an unselected icon **803** can be disabled.

Once a subset of icons **803** have been selected and message data has been received in message region **801**, mobile device **100** transmits the message data to each of the plurality of accounts ACC (at their respective servers **294**) associated with each of the icons **803** which are selected, for example via the communications subsystem **104**. Posting can occur once input data is received via auxiliary input I/O that a virtual button **811** has been actuated. It is appreciated that mobile device **100** can store addresses of application servers **294** or that host system **250** can store the addressed of application servers **294**, the message data sent to application servers **294** via the host system **250**.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **10**, which is substantially similar to FIG. **8**, with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800** has been replaced by representation **800***a*. Representation **800***a* is similar to representation **800** with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800***a* includes a link region **1001** for receiving at least one set of link data to be posted with message data. In depicted implementations, link region **1001** is provided adjacent to message regions **801**, however in other implementations, link region **1001** can be provided adjacent to icons **803** (e.g. in between message region **801** and icons **803**, or any other suitable region). In general a link provided in link region **1001** can be any suitable link, including but not limited to a URL (universal resource locator). In any event, when virtual button **811** is actuated message data in message region **801** and a link in link region **1001** are posted to each of the plurality of accounts ACC (at their respective servers **294**) associated with each of the icons **803** which are selected, for example via the communications subsystem **104**.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **11**, which is substantially similar to FIG. **8**, with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800** has been replaced by representation **800***b*. Representation **800***b* is similar to representation **800** with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800***b* includes a picture region **1101** for receiving a picture for upload to be posted with message data. In depicted implementations, picture region **1101** is provided adjacent to message regions **801**, however in other implementations, picture region **1101** can be provided adjacent to icons **803** (e.g. in between message region **801** and icons **803**, or any other suitable region). In general a picture provided in picture region **1101** can comprise any suitable picture file, and can be represented by a representation of the picture (as depicted), a file name or the like. In any event, when virtual button **811** is actuated, message data in message region **801** and a picture in picture region **1101** are posted to each of the plurality of accounts ACC (at their respective servers **294**) associated with each of the icons **803** which are selected, for example via the communications subsystem **104**.

In yet further implementations one or more additional regions can be provided for receiving file data, event data or

video data such that at least one of the file data, the event data, or the video data can be posted for upload with the message data.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **12**, which is substantially similar to FIG. **8**, with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800** has been replaced by representation **800***b*. Representation **800***b* is similar to representation **800** with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800***b* includes icons **1203-1**, **1203-2**, **1203-3**, **1203-4** (collectively icons **1203** and individually an icon **1203**), each respectively corresponding to icons **803-1**, **803-2**, **803-3**, **803-4**. However in icons **1203**, pictures have been replaced with profile pictures downloaded from respective application servers **924** (e.g. pictures **903-1**, **903-3** have been replaced with profile pictures). For example, profile pictures can be uploaded to the respective application server **924** for each account ACC. The profile pictures can be uploaded from mobile device **100** or any other suitable computing device used to access accounts ACC. It is appreciated that such profile pictures are generally used to identify posts, messages, etc. associated with account ACC: for example, when the posts, messages etc., are accessed by other accounts (e.g. in a news feed, a live feed, an RSS feed or the like), the posts, messages etc. are supplied with the accompanying profile picture such that they can be identified as having originated at a respective account ACC.

Furthermore, it is appreciated that the profile pictures can be updated at each account ACC at each respective application server **294**.

In any event, in these implementations, mobile device **100** is enabled to incorporate profile pictures into icons **1203** by either requesting the profile pictures associated with each account ACC, from each respective server **294**, or by application server **294** pushing profile pictures associated with accounts ACC, which are in turn associated with mobile device **100**, to mobile device **100**. In either implementation, the profile pictures can be provided to mobile device **100** in at least one of a synchronization event or a refresh event. Incorporation of profile pictures into icons **1203** more readily identifies or distinguishes the various accounts ACC. Hence, incorporation of profile pictures into icons **1203** can avoid inadvertent posting of data (e.g. message data, links, pictures, videos or the like) to unintended accounts ACC.

For example, attention is now directed to FIG. **13**, which depicts application server **294-1** in communication with host system **250**, which in turn is in communication with mobile device **100**. It is appreciated that while not all the infrastructure and additional application servers **294** described above are depicted in FIG. **13**, such infrastructure and additional application servers are nonetheless present.

In some implementations, mobile device **100** can request profile pictures **1303-1**, **1303-2**, **1303-3** (collectively profile pictures **1303**, and individually a profile picture **1303**), each respectively associated with accounts ACC-**1**, ACC-**2**, ACC-**3** from application server **294** via at least one request **1310** transmitted to application server **294-1**. Applications server **294-1** responds by either transmitting the profile pictures **1303** requested or by transmitting the profile pictures **1303** which have been changed since the last time profile pictures **1303** were requested. Indeed, request **1310** can be transmitted on a periodic basis or as part of a scheduled synchronization event or refresh event. Further, it is appreciated that mobile device **100** can transmit any suitable number of requests for profile pictures **1303**, for example one request (similar to request **1310**) for each account ACC, in a one-to-one relationship.

However, in other implementations, an application server **294** can be configured to automatically transmit profile pictures **1303** when profile pictures **1303** are updated.

In any event, once profile pictures **1303** are received at mobile device **100**, mobile device **100** can incorporate respective profile pictures **1303** into respective icons **1203**, and further update icons **1203** as respective profile pictures **1303** are received at mobile device **100**.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **14**, which is similar to FIG. **8**, with like elements having like numbers, however representation **800** has been replaced with representation **1400** of feed application **192**. It is appreciated that each account ACC is configured to provide at least one of a news feed, a live feed, an RSS feed or the like to feed application **192**, and data from these feeds is provided in a news feed area **1401** of representation **140**. FIG. **14** depicts three example items **1403-1**, **1403-2**, **1403-3** (collectively items **1403**, and individually an item **1403**) from one or more of accounts ACC, though fewer or more items **1403** could be provided. Furthermore, each item **1403** includes an visual/iconic identifier of a third-party account where the item originated (e.g. an account different from accounts ACC, with an account ACC subscribing to the third-party account). Furthermore, while not depicted, each item **1403** can include at least one of one or more links or one or more pictures.

In any event, one of items **1403** (as depicted item **1403-1**) can be selected by receiving input data from auxiliary I/O device **112** indicating the selection, as indicated by box **1405** (though any method for indicating selection is within the scope of present implementations). Once, an item **1403** has been selected, processor **102** can control display **110** to provide a menu **1501** comprising commands for selection which can be executed by processor **102**, as depicted in FIG. **15** (substantially similar to FIG. **14**, with like elements having like numbers). Menu **1501** can be provided when input data is received at auxiliary I/O **112** indicating that menu **1501** is to be provided (e.g. via a click of a suitable button at mobile device **100**, or the like). While only two commands are depicted in FIG. **15**, "Forward", and "Copy", menu **1501** can include any suitable number and type of commands.

When the command "Forward" is selected, as depicted, processor **102** responds by controlling display **110** to provide a representation **1600** of post application **194**, as depicted in FIG. **16** (substantially similar to FIG. **8**, with like elements having like numbers), similar to implementations described above. However, in representation **1600** the message area **801** is pre-populated by the same text as in the item **1403-1** being forwarded. Hence the text "I like Cheese" of item **1403-1** is in message region **801**. When the item **1403** to be forwarded includes links or pictures, a pre-populated link region **1001** or a pre-populated picture region **1101** can also be provided, each pre-populated by the respective links or pictures in the forwarded item **1403**.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **1700** which depicts a method **1700** for posting data to a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers via a mobile device. In order to assist in the explanation of method **1700**, it will be assumed that method **1700** is performed using mobile device **100**. Furthermore, the following discussion of method **1700** will lead to a further understanding of mobile device **100** and its various components. However, it is to be appreciated that mobile device **100** and/or method **1700** can be varied, and need not work exactly as discussed herein in conjunction with each other, and that such variations are within the scope of present implementations.

It is furthermore appreciated that method **1700** is implemented at mobile device **100** when post application **194** is executed by processor **102**.

At step **1701**, processor **102** controls the display **110** to generate the message region **801** for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of the plurality of accounts ACC. At step **1703**, processor controls the display **110** to generate the icons **803**, associated with the plurality of accounts ACC, in a one-to-one relationship. It is appreciated that the icons **803** are provided adjacent to the message region **801**. It is further appreciated that each of icons **803** comprises: a first respective indicator **901** of a respective account; a second respective indicator **902** of a service associated with the account; and a respective picture **903**, as described above. It is appreciated that steps **1701** and **1703** can be performed in any suitable order, or in parallel.

At step **1705**, input data from an input device, such as auxiliary I/O **112**, is received the input data indicating that at least one of the icons **803** has been selected. At step **1707**, the processor **102** controls the display **110** to provide an indicator **905** of selection at each of the icons **803** which are selected. At step **1709**, the message data is transmitted to each of the plurality of accounts ACC associated with each of the icons **803** which are selected. For example the message data is transmitted via the communications subsystem **104** when the virtual button **811** is actuated.

Similarly, processor **102** can control display **110** to provide, adjacent to at least one of the message region **801** or the icons **803**, at least one of a region for receiving at least one of link data, picture data, file data, event data, or video data to be posted with the message data. The at least one of the link data, the picture data, the file data, the event data or the video data can be posted to an account ACC when the message data is posted.

As described above, in some implementations a picture in an icon **803** or **1203** can include a picture downloaded from a respective application server **294**. In these implementations, method **1700** can further comprise refreshing a picture downloaded from an application server **294** (or a remote server) by querying the application server **294** in a refresh operation or a synchronization operation and receiving a refresh picture in response. Alternatively, method **1700** can further comprise refreshing the picture downloaded from the application server **294** by receiving a refresh picture from the remote server, the refresh picture transmitted by the application server **294** in a refresh operation or a synchronization operation.

In general, method **1700** can further comprise receiving the message data in the message region **801** via an input device; however in some implementations blank message data can be posted, or only a link or only a picture. Hence, receiving message data in message region **801** is generally optional.

Method **1700** can further comprise: receiving messages from at least a second subset of the accounts via the communications subsystem **104**, each of the messages received in a respective data feed, for example in feed application **192**; controlling the display **110** to provide the messages; receiving selection data from an input device indicating that one of the messages has been selected; and populating the message region **801** with the one of the messages, such that the message data comprises the one of the messages. In other words, message region **801** can also be populated using a forward command executed in the feed application **192**, the forward command triggering the processing of the post application **194** and the pre-population of at least one of the message region, the link region **1001** or the picture region **1101** using data selected in the feed application **194**.

Attention is now directed to FIG. **18**, which is similar to FIG. **16** with like elements having like numbers. However, in these implementations, 147 characters have been received in message region **801**, and region **802** has been controlled to indicate that −7 characters are remaining (i.e. there are 7 characters more than the maximum amount for updating to accounts ACC having a 140 character limit). The number of characters exceeding the limit of accounts ACC having the lowest maximum number of characters can be provided using any suitable method (e.g. using text such as "The maximum has been exceeded by 7" can be provided in region **820**).

Furthermore it is appreciated that icons **803-2** and **803-4** are automatically unselected when the maximum number of characters for associated accounts are exceeded in message region **801** as an attempt to post more than **140** characters to these accounts would result in either an error or a nonsensical truncation of the message data. The automatic unselection of icons **803-2** and **803-4** is reflected by icons **803-2** and **803-4** being changed to an unselected state (e.g. by way of the checkmark being removed and associated text and picture being grayed out or ghosted, or icons **803-2** and **803-4** being disabled). Hence, in general, when associated maximum character limits are reached for each account ACC, an associated selected icon **803** is changed from a selected state to an unselected state. Furthermore, unselected icons associated with the same service are disabled from being selected. Furthermore, it is appreciated that when the number of characters in message area **801** is reduced to being within a maximum amount associated with a respective account ACC, the associated icon(s) **803** can be changed back to a selected state. Alternatively, the associated icons(s) **803** can be reenabled for selection: in these implementations, for the message data to be posted to accounts ACC associated with icons **803** that were previously changed from a selected state to an unselected state, the associated icons **803** are re-selected by receiving suitable input data.

It is further understood that while implementations of FIGS. **8** through **18** have been described with reference to mobile device **100**, with input data being received via auxiliary I/O **112**, further implementations can be implemented on mobile device **100***a* or mobile device **100***b* with input data being received via at least one of touch-pad **112***b*-**1** or touch-screen **112***b*-**2**.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that in some implementations, the functionality of mobile devices **100**, **100***a*, **100***b* can be implemented using pre-programmed hardware or firmware elements (e.g., application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), electrically erasable programmable read-only memories (EEPROMs), etc.), or other related components. In other implementations, the functionality of mobile devices **100**, **100***a*, **100***b* can be achieved using a computing apparatus that has access to a code memory (not shown) which stores computer-readable program code for operation of the computing apparatus. The computer-readable program code could be stored on a computer readable storage medium which is fixed, tangible and readable directly by these components, (e.g., removable diskette, CD-ROM, ROM, fixed disk, USB drive). Alternatively, the computer-readable program code could be stored remotely but transmittable to these components via a modem or other interface device connected to a network (including, without limitation, the Internet) over a transmission medium. The transmission medium can be either a non-wireless medium (e.g., optical and/or digital and/or analog communications lines) or a wireless medium (e.g., microwave, infrared, free-space optical or other transmission schemes) or a combination thereof.

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Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that there are yet more alternative implementations and modifications possible for implementing the implementations, and that the above implementations and examples are only illustrations of one or more implementations. Variations, subsets, enhancements and combinations of the foregoing are contemplated.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for posting data to at least one of a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers via a mobile device comprising a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem, the method comprising:

controlling said display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of said plurality of accounts;

controlling said display to generate icons, associated with said plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, said icons provided adjacent to said message region, each said icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with said respective account; and a respective picture associated with said respective account;

receiving input data from said input device indicating that at least one of said icons has been selected;

controlling said display to provide an indicator of selection at each of said icons which are selected; and

transmitting said message data to each of said plurality of accounts associated with each of said icons which are selected via said communication subsystem, wherein each of said plurality of accounts is associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each said account, said method further comprising:

receiving said data in said message region as textual characters; and, as each said respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, changing selected icons associated with each said respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein each respective picture comprises at least one of:

a picture stored at said mobile device; and,

a picture downloaded from a remote server associated with said respective account.

3. The method of claim **2**, further comprising refreshing said picture downloaded from said remote server by at least one of:

querying said remote server in a refresh operation and receiving a refresh picture in response; and

receiving a refresh picture from said remote server, said refresh picture transmitted by said remote server in a refresh operation.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein said first respective indicator comprises a textual indicator of a name of said respective account provided adjacent to said respective picture.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein said second respective indicator comprises at least one of said respective picture and a visual indicator inset in said respective picture.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein said indicator of selection comprises at least one of:

a visual difference between selected icons and unselected icons;

a visual indicator inset in said second respective picture;

a border surrounding said respective picture; or

said respective picture for selected icons provided with an original color scheme, wherein pictures for unselected icons are provided with a changed color scheme.

7. The method of claim **1**, further comprising receiving said message data in said message region via said input device.

8. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

receiving messages from at least a second subset of said accounts via said communication subsystem, each of said messages received in a respective data feed;

controlling said display to provide said messages;

receiving selection data from said input device indicating that one of said messages has been selected via said input device; and

populating said message region with said one of said messages, such that said message data comprises said one of said messages.

9. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

controlling said display to provide, adjacent to at least one of said message region or said icons, a region for receiving at least one of link data, picture data, file data, event data, or video data; and

posting at least one of said link data, said picture data, said file data, said event data, or said video data for upload with said message data.

10. The method of claim **1**, further comprising preventing unselected icons associated with an exceeded maximum number of characters from being selected.

11. The method of claim **1**, wherein each of said plurality of servers comprises at least one of a social networking server, an RSS (real simple syndication) server, or a news server.

12. A mobile device for posting data to at least one of a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers, the mobile device comprising:

a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem, said processor configured to:

control said display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of said plurality of accounts;

control said display to generate icons, associated with said plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, said icons provided adjacent to said message region, each said icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with said respective account; and a respective picture associated with said respective account;

receive input data from said input device indicating that at least one of said icons has been selected;

control said display to provide an indicator of selection at each of said icons which are selected; and

transmit said message data to each of said plurality of accounts associated with each of said icons which are selected via said communication subsystem, wherein each of said plurality of accounts is associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each said account, and wherein said processor is further configured to:

receive said data in said message region as textual characters; and, as each said respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, change selected

icons associated with each said respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state.

13. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein each respective picture comprises at least one of:

a picture stored at said mobile device; and,

a picture downloaded from a remote server associated with said respective account.

14. The mobile device of claim **13**, wherein said processor is further configured to refresh said picture downloaded from said remote server by at least one of:

querying said remote server in a refresh operation and receiving a refresh picture in response; and

receiving a refresh picture from said remote server, said refresh picture transmitted by said remote server in a refresh operation.

15. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said first respective indicator comprises a textual indicator of a name of said respective account provided adjacent to said respective picture.

16. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said second respective indicator comprises at least one of said respective picture and a visual indicator inset in said respective picture.

17. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said indicator of selection comprises at least one of:

a visual difference between selected icons and unselected icons;

a visual indicator inset in said second respective picture;

a border surrounding said respective picture; or

said respective picture for selected icons provided with an original color scheme, wherein pictures for unselected icons are provided with a changed color scheme.

18. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said processor is further configured to receive said message data in said message region via said input device.

19. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said processor is further configured to:

receive messages from at least a second subset of said accounts via said communication subsystem, each of said messages received in a respective data feed;

control said display to provide said messages;

receive selection data from said input device indicating that one of said messages has been selected via said input device; and

populate said message region with said one of said messages, such that said message data comprises said one of said messages.

20. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said processor is further configured to:

control said display to provide, adjacent to at least one of said message region or said icons, a region for receiving at least one of link data, picture data, file data, event data, or video data; and

post at least one of said link data, said picture data, said file data, said event data, or said video data for upload with said message data.

21. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein said processor is further configured to prevent unselected icons associated with an exceeded maximum number of characters from being selected.

22. The mobile device of claim **12**, wherein each of said plurality of servers comprises at least one of a social networking server, an RSS (real simple syndication) server, or a news server.

23. A system for posting data to at least one of a plurality of accounts, the system comprising:

a plurality of remote servers, said plurality of accounts associated with said plurality of servers; and

a mobile hardware device in communication with said plurality of servers, said mobile hardware device configured to:

control an associated display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of said plurality of accounts;

control said display to generate icons, associated with said plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, said icons provided adjacent to said message region, each said icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with said respective account; and a respective picture associated with said respective account;

receive input data from said input device indicating that at least one of said icons has been selected;

control said display to provide an indicator of selection at each of said icons which are selected; and

transmit said message data to each of said plurality of accounts associated with each of said icons which are selected via an associated communication subsystem, wherein each of said plurality of accounts is associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each said account, and wherein said mobile hardware device is further configured to:

receive said data in said message region as textual characters; and, as each said respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, change selected icons associated with each said respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state.

24. A computer program product, comprising a non-transitory computer usable medium having a computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for posting data to at least one of a plurality of accounts at a plurality of remote servers via a mobile device comprising a processor interconnected with a display, an input device and a communication subsystem, comprising:

controlling said display to generate a message region for receiving message data to be posted to at least a subset of said plurality of accounts;

controlling said display to generate icons, associated with said plurality of accounts, in a one-to-one relationship, said icons provided adjacent to said message region, each said icon comprising: a first respective indicator of a respective account; a second respective indicator of a service associated with said respective account; and a respective picture associated with said respective account, wherein said first respective indicator, said second respective indicator and said respective picture are different from each other;

receiving input data from said input device indicating that at least one of said icons has been selected;

controlling said display to provide an indicator of selection at each of said icons which are selected; and

transmitting said message data to each of said plurality of accounts associated with each of said icons which are selected via said communication subsystem, wherein each of said plurality of accounts is associated with a respective maximum number of characters that can be uploaded to each said account, said method further comprising:

receiving said data in said message region as textual characters; and, as each said respective maximum number of characters is exceeded, changing selected icons associated with each said respective maximum number from a selected state to an unselected state.

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